BLACK LINES

May 1999, Vol. 4, No. 4 Free/$2 outside Chicago

EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

the women's issue

this issue of blacklines features special contributions by black lesbians

ALSO INSIDE:
Unity Conference

Published by Lambda Publications, publishers of OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, EN LA VIDA, OUT! GUIDE, CLOUT! AND TASTE
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cover art by juarez hawkins

HARAMBEE WELLNESS CENTER

of Howard Brown Health Center

Programs and Services for Same Gender Loving Men and Women of African Descent

Brothers CAN (Community Awareness Network)

GAMBA: A discussion group for African-American gay and bisexual men. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

Brothers United Together: An ongoing group for HIV positive same gender loving men of African descent.

Brothers CAN Basic and Beyond: A series of workshops that cover topics ranging from HIV 101, intimacy for couples, prevention for young same gender loving men and more.

HIV Prevention Case Management: BROTHERS CAN offers one on one counseling for same gender loving men to help them change behavior that may put them at risk for exposure to HIV.

For BROTHERS CAN programs contact Charles Nelson or Dwayne Sanders.

Well Women's Group • Begins Friday, May 21

A four-week health education workshop for women interested in learning about health issues that affect their lives, including HIV/AIDS, breast and cervical cancer, menstruation, menopause, sexually transmitted diseases and safer sex. For information, call Brie Dean 773.388.8686.

Anonymous HIV Counseling and Testing

If you have had unsafe sex or shared needles, you should consider getting an anonymous HIV test. Sliding-fee scale available, costs range from $0-60. Results are available in 3-5 Days. Call for an appointment.

Visit the new Harambee Wellness Center in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood at 1515 E. 52nd Place (*Adjacent to Harper Court*).

For information call 773.752.7867

BLACK LINES

May 1999
Volume 4, Number 4

BLACK*lines* Staff:

Managing Coordinator
La Jaunessee Jordan

Senior News Reporter
Robert Schultz

Photography Israel Wright, Lynnell S. Long, Rosalind Glanton

Art/Design:
Otis Richardson, Elandria Henderson, Rodney Moore

Editorial Contributors:
Vicky Nabors, Janice Layne, Harry Tyner, Andrew Davis, Jon Dallas, Lynnell S. Long, Cain Berlinger, Kathleen Rose Winter, Preston Schumaker, Lester Davis, Shamara Riley, Jean Pierre Campbell, C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Charles Clifton, Dwayne Sanders, Vernita Gray, Rhonda Mundhank, J., Samantha Mattox, Byron Stewart, Sherri Jackson, Donna Rose, Patricia Mickey, Leslie D. McClellan.

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Lambda Publications Staff:
PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Terri S. Klinsky, Kathleen Ulm
Israel Wright, Daniel Finley, Robert Schultz

Editorial: D. Jean Albright

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: **outlines@suba.com**

World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
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WOMEN'S ISSUE
includes poetry, essays, art, prose ...
Pages 18-24, plus page 35

look for our Men's Issue in July ...
deadline is June 10.

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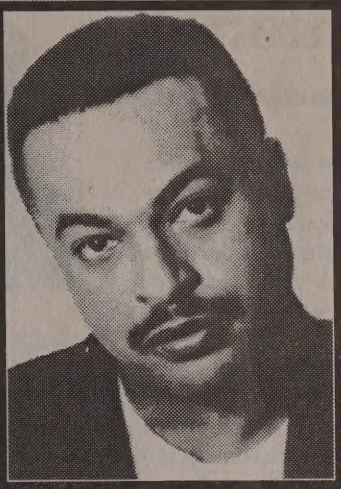

TOP: E. Lynn Harris (pictured) and April Sinclair are among authors in town this month to sign their new books. See pages 8-9. BELOW: Vernita, Kim (now a New Yorker), Renae and Cheryl at the Unity V gala dinner by Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays. See pages 14-17 for more coverage of Unity weekend. Photo by Tracy Baim

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Cover photo of Barbara Smith by Clint Steib, THE WASHINGTON BLADE.

BLACKlines
DEADLINE is the 5th of each month for articles, calendar, photos, art, poetry, viewpoints, etc. Material used on a space-available basis.

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

Welcome to our first special women's issue of BLACKLINES. We have many pieces by and focusing on womyn, although our regular contributors are still included (look forthe men's issues in July). Take special notice of the artwork by Juarez Hawkins, including the cover. We have several pieces of womyn's poetry, a femme article by CC. Carter shown in a different way and plenty of womon talk. *Hope you enjoy!*

Now that we are coming to the end of this decade, I would like to share with you whom I would choose as Womon of the Decade. I met her 10 years ago and have witnessed as well as heard from others about the greatness of Jackie Anderson. If you don't know her she is no-nonsense and fun-loving, tough and tender.

She stops bullshit before it fully exits someone's mouth and can win any argument point by point.

I met Jackie when I was editor of another paper and interviewed her about a gay-related story. I really chose to interview her because I was still a lesbian in training and she was queen of the super butches. Although I have known all of my life that I was a lesbian, I had only been a practicing lesbian for ten years—not nearly long enough to get it right. With guidance and example, Jackie has helped me become the perfect lesbian. She told me about this group of womyn who wanted to provide free care to lesbian and non-lesbian womyn with and without cancer. She said they needed me. She and I were a part of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project before there was a board. And we are both retiring this year—seven years later—due to mandatory guidelines. When she developed cancer and had surgery, she did not miss a board meeting.

Jackie was the founder of Yahimba (there is no place like home). She helped grace my home where we used to meet with about 100 Black lesbians. Yahimba brought the Chicago Black lesbian community together and created long-lasting friendships and networking that laid the groundwork for several other groups.

Jackie was on a TV show many years ago and informed the audience about a meeting at my home for younger Black lesbians. At the meeting people who felt disconnected from the community became connected. Lisa Pickens and Karen Long began African American Womyns Alliance, which consisted of a younger womyn's activity and discussions group. In addition to another group for all womyn. It lasted for years and provided emotional support and sisterhood for many. Many of us involved with AWA became founding members of Affinity, which currently has discussion groups, workshops, literary events and skills-building activities for Black lesbians.

Jackie recruited me as a rape victim advocate. I got up several nights at 2 or 3 a.m. going to help girls and womyn in crisis, as a result of efforts she made. I mention all of this to tell you that this is my story in relation to Jackie—and only a small (although monumental) part of it. I have talked with many who know Jackie's Goddess-like weavings, as she is the backbone of the Black lesbian community in Chicago. Everyone who I talked with about this story had the highest praises for her and agreed there is nothing she would not do for a womon. She is co-founder of a womyn's center in a mostly Black city college which helps womyn with issues related to rape, abuse, lesbianism and other issues. Her goodness goes on and on, but I am running out if paper. To the womon of the decade, thanks for the past 10 years from me and many others.

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REGGIE WHITE GOES ON AND ON .... The OMAHA WORLD-HERALD had this report April 21: "Retired Green Bay Packers defensive end **Reggie White** says he is on a mission from God. More than 1,000 people came to Omaha's Orpheum Theater on Tuesday to hear the message of the 'Minister of Defense,' who served as guest speaker for the spring fund-raiser of AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center, which opposes abortion. ... The devil has taken control of the news media, the 1998 NFL Defensive Player of the Year said, commenting on the backlash that hit him after he made what some considered a gay-bashing speech before the Wisconsin Legislature last year. He called homosexuality 'one of the biggest sins' in the Bible."

Paid Volunteers Needed!

African-American Men

who have sex with men are needed to participate in a research project being conducted at

Loyola University Chicago

The study examines racial, sexual, and gender identity development. Volunteers are paid **$20** to complete a confidential survey lasting 60 minutes.

Interested individuals may call (773) 508-8903 for more Information

It happens in ***Our Community***, too.

Support Group for lesbians who experience **abuse** from their partners.

Call Daphne at the Women's Program: **773/847-4417**

TIA/CHICAGO CONNECTIONS

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(BUS Donor Club)

I see the Divinity in you.
Look at me and see yourself.
Look inside yourself and offer your help...

Chicago's oldest peer-led support group for same gender loving men of African descent with HIV

BROTHERS UNITED IN SUPPORT

Bayard Rustin Award winner

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'And Still We Rise—Visions Toward Our Future': Chicago Black LBGT Unity Confab

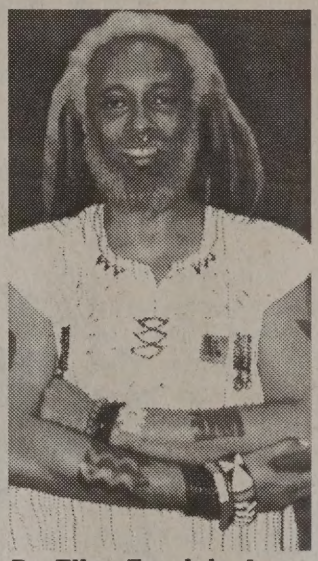
by Sherri Jackson

A vision is the manner in which one sees or conceives of something. A person or thing of extraordinary beauty and a mental image produced by the imagination. Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays held their fifth annual Unity Conference at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place from April 16-18. There were 450 attendees this year. The keynote speakers were Barbara Smith, Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones and the Rev. Carol Johnson.

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays must have had one heck of a vision. What I witnessed over the weekend only could have happened with a vision and faith. And we must not forget the many efforts and the support from so many other organizations and people who gave so much time in making this happen as well.

Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered folks traveled from afar to attend the conference. This conference had so much to offer the arts, shopping at the Virtual Village, workshops, panel and roundtable discussions and a banquet and gala. I enjoyed the networking opportunities and the meeting of new faces and discussing the struggles as well as the triumphs. Most of all I love the beautiful women you get to meet.

Friday, a welcome reception and poetry slam were held. The poetry slam was diverse in color and culture with much to offer the mind, body and soul. The winner of the poetry slam was Staceyann Chin, who came to join fellow brothers and sisters all the way from New York's Nuyorican Cafe, along with fellow New Yorker Peter of the Earth. The second place went to Phoenix and the third to Duriel Harris, last year's slam winner, who won a runoff with Juarez Hawkins and Tony. The coordinator of the slam was C.C. Carter and The Literary Exchange sponsored prizes for the winners.



Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones
Photo by Israel Wright

Saturday's opening address was by Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones. I admired the fact that he could stand there and talk about the issue of supporting our Black sisters in the community more. This support, he was reminding us, needed to come from our brothers—such as learning issues that concern women's health, sexism, and racism.

Farajaje-Jones also reminded all of us not to forget the fact that the transgendered

Turn to page 14

Appearing at Unabridged Bookstore

E. Lynn Harris

Thursday, May 13
7:30 p.m.
Harris will be autographing his new book
Abide With Me

unabridged BOOKSTORE
3251 N. Broadway, Chicago, (773) 883-9119

The Fire Scores Against Bias ...

Team up with the MLS Cup '98 Champion Chicago Fire to support Howard Brown Health Center and Horizons Community Services

Special Outlines/Fire party: Saturday, May 8, 8-10 p.m. at StarGaze, 5419 N. Clark. Lots of Team give-aways, soccer balls, and Fire Fun. Co-spon. by Chicago Soccer 4843 N. Western

Call for $20 tix to May 16 double header with U.S. Women's National Team, or May 22 game with Poi Dog concert following. Outlines, 871-7610

AFFINITY

(photo by Rosalind Glanton)

OUR FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY…CREATING VISIBILITY

Thursday, May 6th: Healthy Woman Nite – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 13th: Lez Chat – "Safer Sex" – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday May 15th: 40 Plus "Open Social – 40 Plus Reunion" 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 28th: "It's a Play Thang"
Join us for Videos, Games, Food, and Fun – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, TAE BO with C.C. Carter 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.
(call for fee info etc…)

All events located in Hyde Park unless otherwise noted
5650 S. Woodlawn (garden level)
Voice mail (312) 409-7609

CALENDAR

Wed., April 28

WTTW Channel 11 PBS presents *Bill Moyers in Conversation w/ Bishop Desmond Tutu* 9p.

Thursday, April 29

The Chicago Cultural Center Duke Ellington's birthday honored @ 1p, free, @ Randolph Cafe. (312)744-1426.

Geared For Life a Detroit organization that provides education & assistance to PWAs. Party weekend through 2 May. www..geared4life.org/events.htm

Friday, April 30

The Autonomous Zone Film "History of Politics of Rhythm and Blues,"a video/ narrative on the 1960s by queer activist Darrel Gordon. 6:30p. (773) 252-6019.

Gerber/Hart Library Grand Opening Weekend of events. Today: Dance the night away with Gerber/Hart, at Berlin, 954 W. Belmont. Food, prizes, cash bar, male and female dancers. No admission 8p-midnight. 773-381-8030.

Horizons Community Services Youth Grp HOUSE PARTY (ages 14-23 only) 7-10p @ 961 W Montana; (773) 472-6469.

Hoxie's Jan Coleman performs, 1801 W. Lawrence. (773) 989-4800.

Insight Art Women's Performance Jam. 7p, $7m 1545 W, Morse, 3rd floor. (773) 973-1521.

Northwestern U. Film and Video Fest Presents "Flicker," some of finest student films across U.S. Gay filmmaker John Waters is keynote speaker today, 2-4 p.m. He will also open the fest at 8 p.m. Call (847) 467-5347. Waters is famous for *Hairspray, Cry Baby, Pink Flamingos.*

The Rails Green, Master Mixer Spen.

Temptations Fundraiser to benefit Northwest Action Against Rape.6-8:30p party w/ buffet & beer, $5.

Urban Gateways Annual Spring Benefit Gala to benefit arts in education programs. 6:30p, Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom. (312) 922-0440.

Saturday, May 1

Autonomous Zone May Day "Raze the Walls" video on Amerikan justice system. IWW speaker Mike Lee.8p. 878-6569. Food Not Bombs cooks 9:30a & distributes 1:30p Wilson/Sheridan. 252-6019.

Blackstone Hotel 11th tutor/mentor leadership & volunteer training conference. 8a-1p. 636 S. Michigan. (312) 467-2889.

Brother Jimmy's BBQ Virginia Slims Dueling Divas/Open Hand Chicago Benefit, featuring Soul Intention, 10p, 2909 N. Sheffield. (773) 528-0888.

Brown Elephant Resale Shop Silent auction for a 1950s motorcycle w/sidecar that may have been built for the Chinese military. 3651 N. Halsted.

Chi Commission on Human Relations & It's Time IL co-host transgender forum (orig scheduled for Mar 6), 11a-2p @ DePaul Egan Urban Center. Info (708) 535-1506; email ItsTimeIL@aol.com.

DuSable Museum "A Tribute to Alvin Ailey," 2p. (773) 947-0677.

Gerber/Hart Library Grand Opening Weekend. Today: Gala Grand Opening. 6 p.m. cocktail reception, followed by dinner and entertainment and dancing by local artists. $65 for GH members, $100 for nonmembers (includes membership). 1127 W. Granville, 773- 381-8030.

Hoxie's Jan Coleman performs, 1801 W. Lawrence. (773) 989-4800

Million Marijuana March high noon at corner of Jackson/Dearborn

Sundance Channel She Said Cinema, films of over 29 female film makers to be featured throughout May.

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) meet for brunch 1p @ Affinity, 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). (773) 784-8922 or (773) 235-5847. **5th anniversary event.**

Wheaton United Methodist Church Dance, Inc. presents "Turn Up the Heat" women-only dance in Evanston. 8p, $10/advance, $13/door. 2214 Ridge Ave. Tickets avail. Chicago 35, Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, Kindred Hearts Friday Night Event.

Sunday, May 2

The Fourth Presbyterian Church's Forum For Gay & Lesbian Concerns & AIDS Pastoral Network presents "AIDS: Shaping Our Response." Through May 23rd. Tonight: a time of experience sharing. 9:45-10:45am. 126 E. Chestnut. (312) 787-4570.

Gerber/Hart Library Grand Opening Weekend of events. Today: Ribbon Cutting ceremony at noon. Until 8 p.m., theatre and music performance, author readings, along with refreshments. Performers and readers include C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Sukie de la Croix, Rick Reed, Linda Licina, Jorjet Harper, Juanita Crespo, Rick Karlin, Preston Shumaker, D.L. Sanders, Lynnell Stephani, and more. 1127 W. Granville, 773-381-8030.

Tuesday, May 4

The Film Center of the Art Institute Boyz In the Hood @ 6p. Columbus Dr./Jackson. (312)443-3733.

HotHouse Robbie Hunsinger Quartet. 8p, 31 E. Balbo. (312) 362-9707.

Temptations 8:30 p.m.: Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and Bailiwick Theatre present Greg Louganis at a reception, free to members, $10 to guests, cash bar, hors d'oeuvres. At 10 p.m., general public meets Louganis and cast of Larry Kramer's Just Say No. Sponsored by Alizé.

WTTW Ch. 11 Forgotten Fires, documentary about KKK black church burnings in 1995. 11p.

Wed., May 5

AIDS Alternative Health Project Free educational and screening site for National Anxiety Disorder Screening Day at AAHC's Uptown clinic. (773) 561-2800.

All Jokes Aside Gay Pride Reunion, 3rd annual, Ivanhoe Theatre, 750 W. Wellington, 773-643-0245, 773-779-2399. Featuring Mo'Classy, Mo'Sassy (Monique) and special guest André Kelly, Coco from Detroit and Tony Sculfield (Comic View and BET). $10 advance, $12 at door, show 7 p.m.

HotHouse The Black Earth Trio 8p, $5, 31 E. Balbo. (312) 362-9707.

Thursday, May 6

92nd Street Y Reflections on Women and Midlife. Dorothy Allison, Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot & Susan Berrin. 8:15p, $18, 1395 Lexington. (212) 996-1100.

Big Chicks Feast of Fools Cabaret. 9p, $5. 5024 N. Sheridan. (773) 784-3397.

Chi Cultural Center Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald & Duke Ellington @ 6:30p. Brown bag lunch discussion: Landmarks of Chicago & New York @ 12:15p. Also, downtown Thurs Nite hosts "Hollywood on Lake Michigan," trolley-bus tour of glam Chi-town Loop film history, led by ciné-author Arnie Bernstein. 1st-come-1st-served seating, 5:30-7:30p, free. Meet @ CCC, 77 E Randolph, (312) 742-1174.

First Unitarian Church Affinity meeting: healthy woman nite, 7p. 5650 S. Woodlawn. (312) 409-7609.

Girlbar Leading Ladies of Lesbian Comedy, Hysterical Women, 8p, 2625 N. Halsted.

HotHouse Arts Midwest honors the 1998/1999 Jazz Masters. 7:30p, $10, 31 E. Balbo. (312) 362-9707.

Friday, May 7

Brother Jimmy's BBQ Virginia Slims Dueling Divas/Open Hand Chicago Benefit, featuring Butterfly McQueen, 10p. 2909 N. Sheffield. (773) 528-0888.

The Community Media Workshop at Columbia College training. Intro to Professional Media Relations geared toward community leaders working on the prevention & treatment of STD/HIV /AIDS. 8:30a-12:30p, $10. 623 S. Wabash, ste 201. (312) 344-6400.

Condo Club The hottest male culacho contest. $100 cash prize every Friday through May 28st. $1 Tequila shots. 9p, $5, includes one drink. 1931 N. Milwaukee. (773) 235-5875.

Howard Brown Health Center Counseling & Psychotherapy prof seminar: "Issues & Interventions w/ Sexual Minority Youth," 2-4p, $20 ($10st) @ (773) 388-8904.

Saturday, May 8

AIDS Foundation of Chicago "Not Just Song & Dance: *La Noche Caliente*" 151 E Wacker Dr. Tix (312) 922-2322.

Autonomous Zone Sandpaper collective meets at noon. Food Not Bombs cooks @ 9:30a & distributes @ 1:30p at Wilson/ Sheridan. Kindred Spirits opposing gentrification in West town. 342-7545.

Chicago Fire Soccer Party at StarGaze, 8-10p, 5419 N. Clark, with free giveaways of soccer tix and items, free. Sponsored with OUTLINES, proceeds of tix sales for games to Horizons and Howard Brown. Call (773) 871-7610.

DuSable Museum Songs of the South Side. 1-2:30p, (773) 947-0677.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children presents women's music legends Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, 7:30p @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster; (312) 409-0276.

Onyx Leather Dance @ IML @ the Congress Hotel. Info www.onyxmen.com.

Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Women Connecting Day, 9a-noon, 930 E. 50th. (773) 373-3366.

Sunday, May 9

Autonomous Zone Food Not Bombs cooks @ 9:30a & distributes @ 1:30p at Wilson/Sheridan. 252-6019.

Cultural Center Sunday Magazine w/ classical & jazz guitarist Fareed Haque, authors from Augustus Burley Elementary School & chef Judith Hines demonstrates cooking with flowers. Noon, free, Randolph Cafe. 77 E. Randolph. (312) 744-6630.

Hoxie's Come Out and Dine, a new g&l dining club meets at 12:15p, 1801 W. Lawrence. (773) 784-2188.

N~trigue Mother's Day Extravaganza w/ lingerie/fashion show & buffet. $10, valet parking, 6p-12a, 2626 N Halsted. (773) 333-9725.

Tuesday, May 11

Chicago Hilton & Towers Women Employed Institute Silver Anniversary. Guest speaker Tipper Gore. 11:15/reception, 12p/lunch. 720 S. Michigan. (312) 782-3902.

The Film Center of the Art Institute ***The Watermelon Woman*** @ 6p. Columbus Dr./Jackson. (312)443-3733.

WTTW-Channel 11 *In the Life*, quarterly lesbigay show, 11 p.m. Features: Gay cruise ships being turned away; travel to Bali; airlines controversy; Condega

Women & Children First Books

April Sinclair

Friday, May 14
7:30 p.m.

April Sinclair:
I Left My Back Door Open

If you've loved her for *Coffee Will Make You Black* and *Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice,* her new novel won't disappoint you. If you don't know her yet, let Sinclair charm you with her warm and funny style, as she reads from this new story about a 40ish Chicago radio D.J. who wonders about the chances of meeting Mr. Right.

Visit our website at http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

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Homemakers Project, women making a difference; a new documentary "Rock the Boat"; and deaf and outspoken gays.

Wed., May 12

Nat'l Young Women's Day of Action Calling all pro-choice women & girls to help plan a rally & march. 6p, 59 E. Van Buren, 17th fl. (773) 604-1654.

WTTW Ch. 11 Swingin' With the Duke: w/ Wynton Marsalis @ 9p.

Thursday, May 13

AIDS Ministry of Illinois presents Dining Out for Life. (773) 935-4663.

Unabridged Books E. Lynn Harris signs copies of his new book, *Abide with Me*, 7:30p, 3251 Broadway, (773) 883-9119

Friday, May 14

Hot House The Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues presents Color Triangle Jam. 8-9p community organization resource fair, 9-11p Big Smith drumming, Hysterical Women comedy, A Real Read & Anthony Peebles, 11p-2a DJs Fred Wells & Lora Branch: hip hop, rock, r&b, Latin, bhangra, drum & bass. $10 incl. food & dancing. Proceeds to Color Triangle's efforts to raise the glbt community's awareness of racism & develop methods to minimize community tensions. 31 E. Balbo. (773) 381-5091.

New Regal Theatre Columbia College presents Stopin' at the Regal. Performances by Center for Black Music Research's Ensemble Stop-Time and Ensemble Kalinda Chicago. $10-35, 1645 E. 79th. (773) 721-9301.

Women & Children First April Sinclair reads and signs her new book, *I Left My Back Door Open*. 7:30p, 5233 N. Clark. (773) 769-9299.

Saturday, May 15

Athena Production's Annual Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest in DeKalb, IL, Sept. 5, (815) 748-5359, www.mwautumnfest.com Singers, artisans, fun in the sun, and more. Today is deadline.

Body Electric School Celebrating the Body Erotic, a two-day workshop exploring connections betweentouch, physical pleasure and spiritual awareness. (312) 819-1524.

First Unitarian Church Affinity open social, 40plus, 4-8p. 5650 S. Woodlawn. (312) 409-7609.

Sunday, May 16

First Congregational Church Chicago a cappella. Go Down, Moses. 7:30p, $20, $15/seniors, $10/students. 1445 Hinman, Evanston. (773) 755-1628.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church's Forum For Gay & Lesbian Concerns & AIDS Pastoral Ntk "AIDS: Shaping Our Response." (312) 787-4570.

John R. Hammell Awards Brunch Tracy Baim & The Playboy Foundation honored for their contributions to LBGT community. Awards brunch 11:30a-2:30p, Union League Club of Chicago, 65 E. Jackson. (312) 201-9740.

The Rails Flesh or Fantasy Sundays, grand opening, at Prop House, guest dancers Cobra and Baby Face, 1675 N. Elston, (708) 802-1705.

Monday, May 17

Bailiwick Repertory A Diva, A Diver, and a Dissident to benefit Bailiwick's Pride '99. Featuring Larry Kramer (here for opening of his *Just Say No*), Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis (starring in *Just Say No*), and Allexandra Billings. Lots of food, entertainment and more. 773-883-1090.

Hoxie's Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce hosts roundtable professional networking, 1801. W. Lawrence. (847) 256-8446.

Howard Brown presents A Taste for Every Palate, a food and wine tasting gala benefitting the Women's Program at Howard Brown. 6:30-8:30p, Cafe Brauer in Lincoln Park. (773) 388-1600.

Tuesday, May 18

Women & Children First Bonnie Morris' signs *Eden Built by Eves: The Culture of Women's Music Festivals*. 7:30p, (773) 769-9299.

Wed., May 19

Autonomous Zone Anti-Police Brutality march. noon @ city hall. 252-6019.

DuSable Museum Remembering Malcolm. 10:30a-4:30p. (773) 947-0677.

Friday, May 21

Ameritech Jazz @ Symphony Center Sonny Rollins 8p, $15-80. @ 220 S Michigan. Tix (312) 294-3000.

Saturday, May 22

Autonomous Zone Food Not Bombs cooks @ 9:30a & distributes @ 1:30p at Wilson/Sheridan. 252-6019.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Wicker Park/Humboldt Park, (312) 742-1190

Double Door Virginia Slims Dueling Divas FINALS/Open Hand Chicago Benefit, featuring Illusions of Abbey, Soul Intention, Butterfly McQueen & Flammable Dress, 10p, 1551 N. Damen. (773) 489-3160.

DuSable Museum Looking Good: The Face of Black Chicago. 1-2:30p. & "The Lord of the Dance," (773) 947-0677.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project WISTERIA Benefit concert at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster, 7:30 p.m. MC Jackie Anderson, Artemis Singers, poets C.C. Carter and Carrie Brecke, viola Katy Clusen, Dykes on Pipes, GirlFunk, Karen Mooney, Paula Walowitz, Women Spirit Drimmers. $10-$20, tix at door. Call (708) 358-1701, GoWisteria@aol.com

Unity Temple Chicago a cappella. Go Down, Moses. 8p, $20, $15/seniors, $10/students. 875 Lake, Oak Park. (773) 755-1628.

Sunday, May 23

Autonomous Zone Food Not Bombs cooks @ 9:30a & distributes @ 1:30p at Wilson/Sheridan. 252-6019.

The Rails Flesh or Fantasy Sundays, at Prop House, dancers, 1675 N. Elston, (708) 802-1705.

Tuesday, May 25

GLSEN/Chicago meets at Sulzer Libary, 7-9p, 4455 N. Licnoln to discuss union issues. (847) 825-3037.

WTTW Ch.11 Frontline "Mandela", 9p.

Thursday, May 27

House of Blues KC & the Sunshine Band.

HotHouse Guillermo Gregorio, Fred Lonberg-Holm & Jeb Bishop, 8p, $6, 31 E. Balbo. (312) 362-9707.

International Mr Leather Weekend thru Mon, May 31 @ Ramada Congress Hotel. Info www.imrl.com.

Marigold Bowl register for Chicago MSA Summer Bowling Mixed Handicap League. Ten-week session begins June 3. 828 W, Grace, 7-9p.

Mr Ebony Leather 1999 Contest @ CellBlock, 8p. Info www.onyxmen.com.

April Sinclair signs books at Women & Children First May 14, E. Lynn Harris at Unabridged Books May 13.

Friday, May 28

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Gay & Lesbian History. (312) 742-1190.

Condo Club The hottest male culacho contest. Final contest. Grand prize round-trip tickets to Florida. $1 Tequila shots. 9p, $5, includes one drink. 1931 N. Milwaukee. (773) 235-5875.

First Unitarian Church Affinity "It's a Play Thang," 7p. 5650 S. Woodlawn. (312) 409-7609.

HotHouse The Early Friday Outsets w/ Black Earth @ 6p & D-Settlement @ 9p, $8. 31 E. Balbo. (312) 362-9707.

Saturday, May 29

Autonomous Zone Food Not Bombs cooks @ 9:30a & distributes @ 1:30p at Wilson/Sheridan. 252-6019.

The Film Center of the Art Institute The Underground Orchestra @ 4, 6 & 8p. Columbus Dr./Jackson. (312)443-3733.

Sunday, May 30

The Rails Flesh or Fantasy Sundays, Memorial Weekend blast with super porn star Tyson Cain, 1675 N. Elston, (708) 802-1705.

Rainbow Families Playing in the Park, meet @ Indian Boundary Park. 11a-2p. (773) 388-1600, ext. 3313.

Monday, May 31

9th AnnualBlack Lesbian and Gay Family Day Picnic 10a-dusk, Lots 23&24, Rock Creek Park, **Washington, D.C.** BPicnicpp@aol.com.

Saturday, June 5

1999 PFLAG Midwest Regional Conference presents "Renewing & Redeeming Society." Keynote address by Rev. Jimmy Crecch. Workshops include Multifaith Panel, Exploring Transgender Issues, Making Schools Safe, Lesbian Health & Children's Museum diversity exhibit, followed by dinner at Rico's. 8a, Chicago Circle Center, 750 S. Halsted. (312) 413-8619.

DuSable Museum Black Music Month. 1-2:30p. & "Shirley Horn," 2p. (773) 947-0677.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children presents singer/songwriter/guitarist Deidre McCalla, 7:30p @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster; (312) 409-0276. (Chem-free space; no boys over 2; call ahead for ASL interp.)

Printer's Row Book Fair Five tented blocks of booksellers, poetry readings, panel discussions, etc, (312) 987-9896.

Wake-up your muse.

Untie your tongue.

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June 1999

Pride Celebration

Poetry Contest

Open To All Lesbians and Gays of Color

WordRising: The Fusion of Time & Space To Express Yourself.

Read June's BLACKlines for more details.

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HELP WANTED

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in our community and to meet other people. We need your help in the following areas:

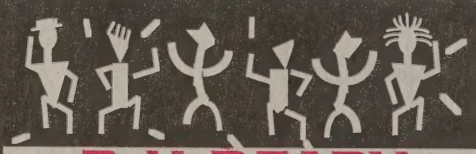
▼ **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES** ▼
daytime or evenings, we need all types of help.
▼ **SPECIAL EVENTS** ▼
Pride Dance '99, LGBT Golf Outing, Market Days
Have fun and be seen by thousands!

▼ **ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT**
▼ **LESBIAN & GAY HELPLINE**
▼ **OLDER ADULT PROGRAM**
▼ **PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES**
▼ **YOUTH SERVICES**

Program volunteers receive special training. Start the process now!

Interested? Have questions? Ready to start?
Call Jim Klein at (773) 472-6469, ext. 246

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES
Chicago's Lesbian & Gay Community Center



HARAMBE JAHARD

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A Discussion Group for Suburban Black Gay Men

Meetings every 2nd Tuesday
1145 Westgate #210, Oak Park

For Info call 708-445-2584
Food & Drink Provided

Facilitated by
Preston L. Shumaker

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ArtsExpress

***** Gay/les/bi/queer/trans content or interest*

Theatre

Previews/Opening Nights

April 30: **The Red Address,** by David Ives, is a seering drama about a successful middle aged businessman whose life is suddenly and inexplicably caught up in an unforgiving vortex of fate. His darkest secrets are revealed in a sexual and emotional expose that resonates with the overtones of Greek tragedy. Thru June 6. Red Wolf Theatre Company, Inc. 773-508-0020

May 2: **The Adventures of Connie Chancla,** multi-media performance commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Bario Historian Connie Chancla, looks at the border, cross-cultural, gender issues, stereotypes, thru multi-lingual humor, performance, music, with comedy and a cello. One woman show showcases multi-disciplinary scholarship while keeping audiences laughing. Thru May 29, 7pm. 312 738-1503

May 5: **Urban Funk:Sights, Sounds, Riffs, and Attitudes** Music, relationships, dreams that inhabit a city. Michael Myers has done *Reflections of Mothers So Young*, an outreach program featuring stories written by pregnant teens, and *Uncle Tom and Other Heroes*. Stories on Stage, WBEZ and Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago 312 397-4010

May 12: **The Old Settler** 1940s Harlem, two middle-aged sisters change when they take Husband, a boarder. Poignant tale of loves lost, found. Thru June 26 Organic 773 404 4700

May 14: **Livin' Fat,** This hilarious comedy centers around the various circumstances leading up to the central character making a decision about what to do when he finds a whole heap of money. Thru June 6, South Shore Cultural Center, part of the Paul Robeson Theater Series 312-747-2580

May 15: **Go Down, Moses** Chicago a cappella traces roots of the African-American spiritual from the 1800s to present, an intimate evening of moving music and powerful readings. First Unitarian Church 773 755-1628 or 1 800 SING-WOW

******** ***May 15:*** **Stupid Kids** a music-video infused statement on growing up gay in suburban America, the relationship between pop culture and identity in the lives of queer youth, particularly when facing life-altering issues. Part of Raodworks partnership with Horizons/Youth Service Project, Season of Concern, The Teen Living Program, Aspira Alternative High School and NOW. At Victory Gardens. Roadworks 312 492-7155

******** ***May 17:*** **A Diva, A Diver, and a Dissident: Just Say Yes to Larry Kramer** Special benefit evening for the nine premiers of Pride 99, with music, comedy, speechifying, with Larry Kramer, Alexandra Billings, and Greg Louganis. Bailiwick 773 883-1090

May 20: **Anchorman (A Blues Operetta)** Teen must decide between choices presented by Mom, Dad, other adults around him. ETA Creative Arts Foundation, Inc. 773 752-3955

******** ***May 27:*** **Just Say No** With Larry Kramer in residence, and Olympian Greg Louganis making his Chicago acting debut, 773 883-1090

******** ***May 28:*** **Shirts and Skins** Stars Tim Miller digging into the laundry, getting naked, trying on shirts as he visits moments of conception, growing up, Act-ing UP, charting one gay man's take on the changes of the last two decades of the millennium. One weekend only. Bailiwick (773) 883-1090

******** ***June 2:*** **Conversations With a Diva** Jonathan Wilson directs actor Byron Stewart in one-man dish and dirt. A brother's journey from sissy to a proud black gay man. Pride '99. Bailiwick (773) 883-1090

In Performance

The Dreamers Family jolted by assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is forced to re-examine their lives, choices. Thru May 2. ETA Creative Arts Foundation, Inc. 773 752-3955

****** Everyone's Coming Out, Rosie!** GayCo Comedy sketch reopening. Donny's Skybox, Second City, thru May 8, 312 337-3992

****** Falsettos** Timeless Tony winner by William Finn. Athenaeum 2936 N Southport, thru June 6. 773 902-1500

****** Jails, Hospitals and & Hip Hop** Obie Award-winning performer Danny Hoch does eight characters, including a jailed addict with AIDS, with powerful stories to tell covering a range of contemporary experience. Museum of Contemporary Art 312 280-2660

****** Joan Crawford Goes to Hell** Inspired by the movie Mommie Dearest, Sweetcorn Playhouse 312 409-3925

Wang Dang Doodle (The Life Story of KoKo Taylor—Queen of the Blues) Her life, history of women in Blues. Black ensemble theater's premiere production starring Queen Roy as Koko Taylor,Rick Stone, Linda Lamar, Gary Wilson. Black Ensemble Th, open run. 4520 N Beacon 773 769-4451

Dance

Apr 29: **Ralph Lemon and Bebe Miller** New direction for dance on film, bringing together two African -American choreographers with distinct visions in a film/dance work challenging conventions in both forms while examining historic dynamics between African-American man and woman. Along with screening, solos by both, created for this premier. Thru May 1. The Dance Center 773 989-3310

Art/Photo

African American Cultural Center Dell Washington, paintings. Henry Jones *On the Edge*, paintings to open October. 312 996-9549

***** Aldo Castillo Gallery** *The Gallery Expansion Party* and *Opening for José Luis Cuevas Exhibit* 5-9 PM *What is Our Strangeness*, 312 337-2536

Chicago Cultural Center A World in a Weekend: Mexico City, Mexico Sights and sounds of faraway places Each month, musicians, actors, artisans, and cultural experts present the unique arts, culture of one of Chicago's 22 sister, friendship cities. May highlights the cultural wealth of Mexico City. May 7 thru May 9 312-744-6630

The Dusable Museum of African American History New: Sundays Free. Also *Harold Washington In Office*, permanent exhibition, w/ composite office setting; memorabilia; personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th and Cottage Grove Ave 773 947-0600

Woman Made *Cut and Paste*, with a focus on collage, and *Shrines for our Fathers*, 1900 S Prairie 312 328-0038.

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS

We salute our community and corporate supporters for their own "unity" and strong support of our successful CBLG Annual Unity Conference

UNITY

The City of Chicago Department of Health
BLACKlines/OUTlines/Lambda Publications
Horizons Community Services
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Chicago Foundation for Women
Print It!
The University of Chicago Center for the Study of Race Politics, and Culture

A Real Read
Absolut
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Affinity
AIDS Legal Counsel
Alice's Garden
All Jokes Aside
All-On-One-Mini Mart
Blackberry
Brother 2 Brother - St. Loius, MO
Brother 2 Brother
Brothers United In Support
Buti Vox
Carl Branch
Celebration Drummers
Church of the Open Door
Clikque Magazine
Club N~trigue
Club Escape
De Paul University
Debra D. Brown
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Dignity
Donna Rose-Weems
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Lakeside Pride Freedom Band
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Lesbian Community Cancer Project
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Minority Outreach Intervention Project
National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum
ONYX
Open Hand Chicago
Pat and Vera
Playboy Foundation
Rhonda McDaniel
Segrams America
Shannon Stevenson
Sherry Jackson
Simone Bouyer Ad World
Susan O'Dell
Test Positive Aware Network
The Rails Entertainment Group
The Greater Chicago Committee
The Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Comerce
The Literary Exchange
The Family of Robert Schultz
Thom Dombrowski
Thom Ford
Tower Records
transGenesis
Uncle Tannous Restaurant
University of Illinois at Chicago
Department of Psychology
Venus Magazine
W. Robert Schultz, III

You are invited to attend CBLG"s next citywide meeting!
Saturday May 8, 1999 from 10am - Noon at
1515 E. 52nd Place 2nd Floor (Harambee Wellness Center)

CBLG, P. O. Box 14811
Chicago, IL 60614-11811 Hotline (312) 409-

...and still We Rise: Visions toward our future

Harambee Center serves South Side

by Robert Schultz

A bright, spacious and welcoming environment awaits visitors to the Harambee Wellness Center. The newly opened Harambee Wellness Center provides services to African-American gays and lesbians on the South Side.

The Harambee Center is located in the urbane Hyde Park neighborhood and Harambee is a part of Howard Brown Health Center. The services that Harambee will provide are, according to Howard Brown Executive Director Eileen Durkin, consistent with the agency's mission to meet the health needs of the LGBT community.

Durkin explained that creating the center started from a desire to reach out geographically and racially to all parts of the LGBT community.

Certainly, there few people within the LGBT community who don't have their own horror story to tell about the insensitivity they encounter when seeking medical services from the dominate society. Harambee Wellness Center offers a South Side alternative that is culturally sensitive to African Americans. Site manager Rashaad Burgess is one of the many African-American staff at the site who are creating an environment of safety and cultural affirmation. Both Burgess and Durkin recounted the efforts to locate a site and to name it. Some South Side healthcare activists who were not gay or lesbian were initially hostile to Howard Brown. This writer was present when Durkin met with members of the South Side HIV/AIDS Resource Providers (SHARP) when Howard Brown's intentions to establish a clinic became known.

Burgess and Durkin noted the importance of the work with the community advisory board throughout the process to make sure that the needs of the broad African-American LGBTG community were met. Durkin recounted that she learned about the various nuances of identity among African-American gays and lesbians. Durkin went on to emphasize that Howard Brown's goal for the Harambee Center is to meet a limited specified range of needs and not to become a full-fledged health center.

Currently the Harambee Center is focusing on HIV testing and counseling, and the Gamba men's discussion group. Planning about how the Harambee Center can meet the needs of lesbians are underway. And plans for a community open house during June are being developed. Call 773-752-7867 for more information.

HBHC files bias suit

In related news, Howard Brown Health Center has filed a complaint with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations against Aegis Properties Corp. and Hyde Park Bank for refusing to lease space to HBHC for its Harambee Wellness Center because it provides HIV-related services and healthcare for gays and lesbians, HBHC stated in a press release.

For the past two years, HBHC has been seeking to move its South Side prevention and education program from the South Shore neighborhood to Hyde Park. HBHC sought space in the Hyde Park Bank Building and, on at least three occasions, approached Aegis Properties about renting the space in the bank. Each time Aegis was initially eager to showcase the property and discuss leasing the property until it learned HBHC provides services to the lesbigay community, HBHC alleges. Aegis management refused to go forward, informing HBHC that it feared losing other current and potential tenants because of the types of services HBHC provides and that the provision of HIV-related services was "problematic."

HBHC eventually moved Harambee Wellness Center to 1515 E. 52nd Place.

Lookin' Good...
Feelin' Good!

Join a gym to work on the brother *outside* –

Join us in focusing on the brother *inside* !

IMANI UMOJA

773.288.1535

A Discussion Group for Gay & Bi Brothers of Color

Meetings every 3rd Friday
Resurrection M.C.C.
Davis Hall 1164 E. 58th Street
starting at 7 pm

Preston L. Shumaker, Workshop Coordinator
Sponsored by Sinai Family Health Centers

L.A. workshop

The 2nd annual BOOK HOUSE CAFE Reader Writer Publisher Workshop/Book Signing is June 19 in Oakland, Calif. Keynote speaker is Jewelle Gomez, author of. *Don't Explain, Forty-Three September, The Gilda Stories* and *Oral Tradition*

Other authors expected: G.B. Mann, James Earl Hardy, Lisa Moore, Sharon Bridgforth.

Place: Laney College B-Building 900 Fallon St. Time: 3 p.m.-5 p.m Cost: Free

The workshop is held in conjunction with OBGLT Pride weekend within the 2nd annual It's Natural Conference, an all-day event with workshops.

Also coming to Oakland, in 2000, "Honoring BGLT History Week," Feb. 6-13, 2000 1st BOOK HOUSE CAFE Reader Writer Publisher Conference. Call (510) 433-7105, tbhcafe@pacbell.net

African-American Women On Tour

The Mobil African American Women on Tour conference series kicks off its 1999 series with an extensive range of workshops, forums and keynote presentations. Now in its ninth year, African American Women on Tour will visit six cities: Los Angeles April 9-11; Brooklyn July 9-11; Philadelphia July 23-25; Chicago July 30-Aug. 1; Washington, D.C. Aug. 20-22; and Atlanta Aug. 27-29.

The Chicago event is at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place East: Friday, radio mogul Cathy Hughes; Saturday, poet Nikki Giovanni; and Sunday, orator Partricia Russell-McCloud; Astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison will be at the D,C, event.

Call 1-800-560-AAWOT (2298), fax to 619-560-9190, email aawot@mindspring.com or visit www.aawot.com.

ATTENTION

COMMUNITY ELDERS

Horizons invites you to drop in at their Drop-In Center on Wednesday afternoons between 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., and on the first and third Friday of every month between 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The Center has been created as a space where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people 45 and older, and who are of various racial and ethnic backgrounds, can come together to make new friends and socialize.

For more information call
The Lesbian & Gay HELPLINE
(773) 929-HELP
between 6-10 p.m. daily

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES
Chicago's Lesbian & Gay Community Center

The Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues presents

COLOR TRIANGLE JAM

ONE COMMUNITY UNDER A GROOVE

HotHouse 31 East Balbo (700 South)

Friday, May 14, 1999

8 pm–9 pm
- Community Organization Resource Fair

9 pm–11 pm
- A Real Read (performance art troupe)
- Big Smith (drumming)
- Hysterical Women (comedy)
- Anthony Peebles (performance artist)

11 pm–2 am
- DJs Fred Wells + Lora Branch: Hip Hop, Rock, R+B, Latin, Bhangra, Drum+Bass

Co-Sponsors: OUTlines/BLACKlines/En La Vida, Lesbigay Radio, Khuli Zaban, Commonwealth Edison Employees Gay and Lesbian Organization, Lesbian Community Cancer Project

Suggested donation: $10 (includes food and dancing) Must be 21 or over. Wheelchair accessible.

Proceeds benefit Color Triangle's efforts to raise the lesbigaytrans community's awareness of racism, develop methods to minimize community tensions, and build upon examples of success. For more information on the Color Triangle Jam, please contact Jason Cox at 773/381-5091.

CBLG from 6

community was the first in many ways to pave the way for many lesbigay people.

Saturday's lunch keynote was Barbara Smith. Part of her speech included readings from her new book, *The Truth That Never Hurts,* which has sold out its first print run. Smith says she writes about the life she has lived through activism, theory, gender issues, and being an out Black lesbian. She touched on such Black heroes as Audre Lorde, Angela Davis, James Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, and Bayard Rustin. What touched me the most was a reading about James Baldwin's funeral. Never during the eulogy was the word "gay" mentioned. This was a tribute to James Baldwin called "We Must Always Bury Our Dead Twice." I looked around, seeing the many faces diverse in color, age, gender and many sister-friends and brothers who loved during the very times she was speaking about . These same folks I thought have made a better way for me and others. I was a babe when the civil-rights era and feminist movement were unfolding. I wondered what did the next generation, the ones I am supposed to be mentoring, think of me? I truly hope I, too, have paved a way for the lesbians coming up now.

Smith spoke on the many struggles women have endured and how when the Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press was started it was Black and other women of color who made it possible. She was glad to see women of other colors besides Black in the audience—working together to make the day possible. Smith also reminded us to always challenge the "isms" in our community.

Barbara Smith. Photo by Israel Wright

The day was full of workshops on topics that covered shared leadership, trans issues, HIV/AIDS in the Black community, and a packed Youth Institute led by Horizons Community Services youth. There were also men's and women's institutes. Presenters included former Unity Conference keynote speakers Dr. Marjorie Hill and Keith Boykin, along with Chicagoans Steve Wakefield, Max Smith and many more.

I popped into the Leather Wear workshop, focusing on the leather community and Black men who like Black men. They discussed experiences, domination and the safe zones.

Tina Taylor did a workshop on "The Body Shop—Naprapath." As you walked into the room the setting was relaxing, healing, and Tina had such great interaction with her audience. She gave demonstrations and filled your head with the knowledge of the body parts. Running over to the youth workshop, I could not get a seat. There were about 45-50 people in the room. They did a skit on hate crimes and a role play on sexual pressures. These young folks were hot!! I thought 'Why didn't they have all of this when I was young?' and 'Was I this much on the ball when I questioned my sexuality?' Laughter came from the crowd when the young man had to put the elder in place, but in a nice way, about sexual pressures. There was indeed some role-playing going on—and role reversal.

I could not get to every workshop. They all had so much to offer.

Saturday night was the banquet and gala. I enjoyed the skit with everyone playing a part from the LBGT community, talking about their vision and how they still rise. Shouts came from the crowd when poetry slam winner Staceyann Chin gave us much delight. She treated us to an encore. The Joel Hall Dancers performed and Lisa Porter sang as the band Da Fellas played music.

The closing on Sunday was by Rev. Carol Johnson and Keith Boykin. It was spiritual and informative. Boykin read an affirmation from his new book, *Respecting the Soul,* for the April 18 date: "None of us are free until all of us are free."

The co-chairs of the event were Susan Stanley and Robert Schultz. The co-chairs of the gala were Renae Ogletree and Michael Pleasants. The co-chairs of CBLG are Lora Branch and Shelton Watson.

I felt like the weekend was a combination of the '60s-'80s mixed in with the present. As I sat there, at one point I thought of my own vision and the many visions I have. I recalled my first Unity Conference in '96, doing a workshop and meeting the many people I now work with in the community. I never thought I would be a part of the community, the LBGT community. At least not to the degree I play now. I never imagined sitting on a panel in 'shared leadership' with three people who have mentored me and now sometimes I mentor them.

And what did this mean for me and my community? I never guessed I would be a part of watching a group go through its transition with new co-chairs, new and old dreams. I saw so many groups in the crowd that make up the Black lesbigay-trans community during that weekend.

I recalled my first Unity Conference with only 75 people; now it's 450. These conferences must go on and messages must be repeated over and over. If you can help one or two you have helped many. I wondered if Audre Lorde and James Baldwin were watching. If so, I think they would have been proud of the weekend. Proud that we haven't given up in the face of adversity.

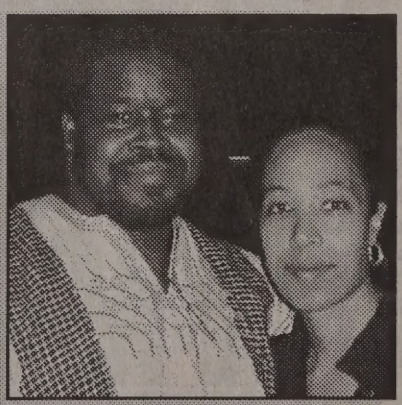
I hope Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays continues, along with many other groups, to make this possible again and again.

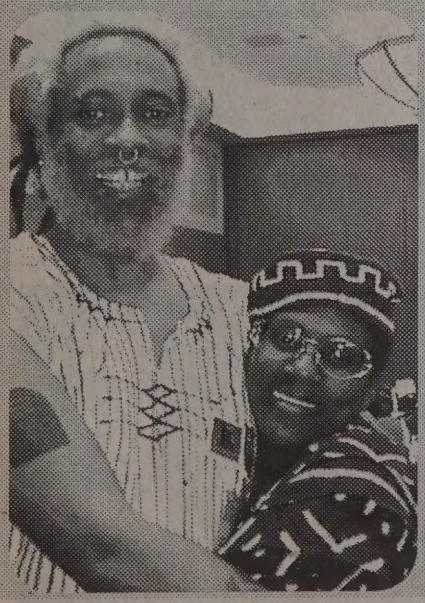
And I thank you for giving me the chance to make a difference and be a part of you, a part of "And Still We Rise—Visions Toward Our Future."

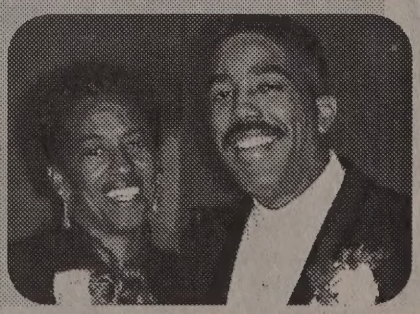
TOP, LEFT: CBLG conference co-chair Susan Stanley with New York lesbian activist Dr. Marjorie Hill. MIDDLE: Keynote speaker Carol Johnson. RIGHT: Barbara Smith and Chicago activist Vernita Gray.

LEFT: Horizons Youth Group members at the CBLG gala.
BELOW, LEFT: Speakers Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones and Rev. Carol Johnson. NEXT: Unity V co-chairs Robert Schultz and Susan Stanley. BELOW: CBLG Co-chairs Shelton Watson and Lora Branch. BOTTOM, RIGHT: Unity V 2nd annual Gala co-chairs Renae Ogletree and Michael Pleasants.

PHOTOS by Tracy Baim and Israel Wright

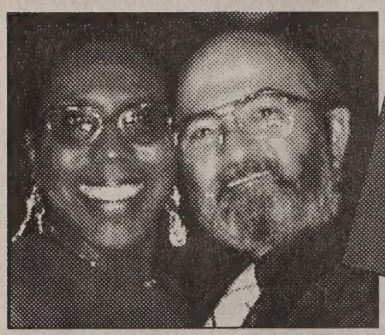


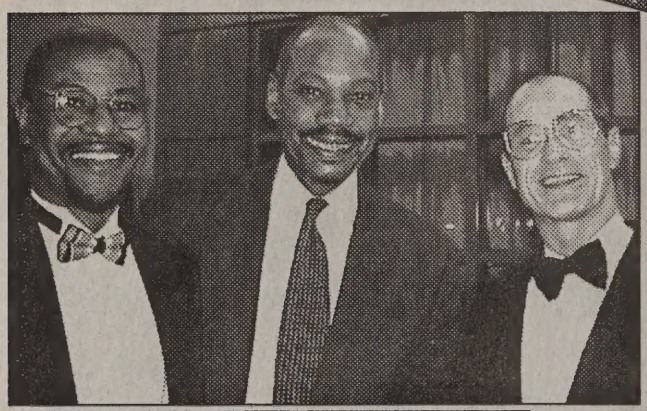


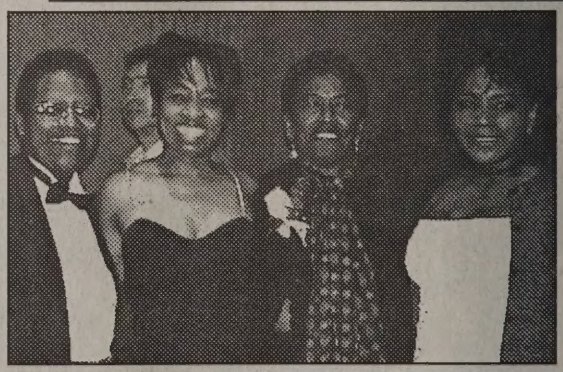


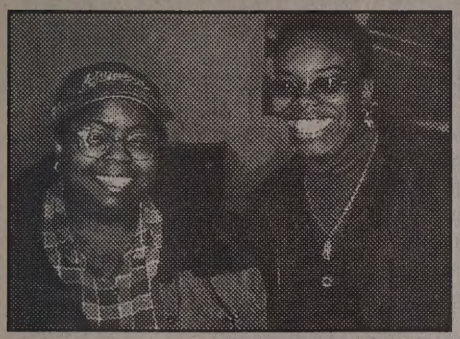
During the CBLG Unity weekend, the 2nd national poetry slam, coordinated by C.C. Carter, was held. Far left are contestants, judges and CBLG folks. Right are Poetry contest winners. Front is Phoenix, who took 2nd place. Back row: 3rd place finisher Duriel Harris, Donna Johnson (president of Literary Exchange), and winner Staceyann Chin of New York. Chin is the only out lesbigay member of the National Poetry Slam Team, and will be performing with them Aug. 10 at the national championships in Chicago. Don't miss her! She has also performed at the Apollo Theatre.

Below, left: Lorrainne and Bruce were honored, among other long-term couples, at the Unity V dinner. The rest of the pics are also from Unity V. Bottom, far right is Ald. Toni Preckwinkle with Jano. PHOTOS by Tracy Baim and Israel Wright









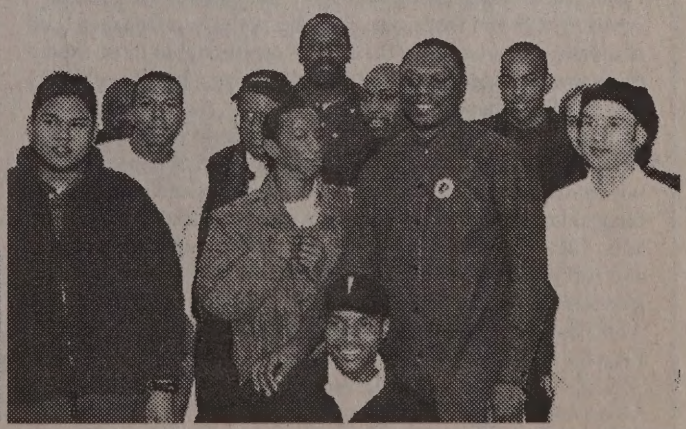
More than a hundred activists packed into the Hot House club April 18 for a Town Meeting on the "urgency of building a progressive lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movement."

Author and revolutionary activist Barbara Smith, in town for several events and to promote her new book, was the special guest speaker. Her remarks focused on the Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process, the national group protesting the planned April 30, 2000 March on Washington [see OUTLINES April 21 issue for a full report]. Panelists for the Town Meeting, which lasted more than three hours, were Michael Pleasants of Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays; labor union organizer Kristen White; Neena Hemmady and Andrea Densham from Color Triangle Coalition; Andy Thayer of Chicago Anti-Bashing Network; and Kathleen Rose Winter, of CBLG and many other organizations. Top, left: Julie Cole and Lisa Pickens. Above, the panelists. Back row: Michael Pleasants, Kristen White, Neena Hemmady, Andrea Densham. Front" Andy Thayer, Barbara Smith and Kathleen Rose Winter. Left: Longtime Chicago activist Renee Hanover with keynote speaker Barbara Smith, who spoke at five Chicago-area events in April, including at two campus programs.

Photos by Tracy Baim

Tending bar at Club N~Trigue, with Chef Tania Fridays, Les Femme Amies Saturday night dance party, and Sunday N~Trigue fun. Pictured are Linda Gray and Rosalind Smith. The club is at Uncle Tannous, 2626 N. Halsted, (773) 333-9725, with food, dancing, and more. Right: Getting ready for the Town Meeting on Progressives Politics. Photos by Israel Wright and Tracy Baim

Outspoken gay and AIDS activist Cleo Manago was a special guest speaker at the University of Illinois-Chicago during their LGBT pride festivities. Photos by Israel Wright



Generations

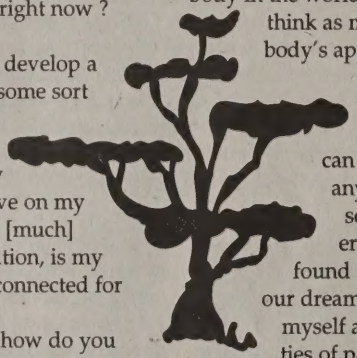
by Leslie D. McClellan

What is it about being twenty something? You are no longer defined as a child, however, you do not have the migraines and pressures of those thirty and up. You have no real interest in hanging out with teenagers, in fact you appreciate those days being over. You are stereotyped by some older persons as young and uninformed because you don't have a mortgage, or retirement fund.

Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with one of my African-American sisters, Najala. She is a 25-year-old college student who discussed how she feels about her life and what is important to her. Before we get started, I realize we do not speak for all Black women in the Les/bi community, but this woman is the only one that responded when I sent the shout out for this interview. It pleasingly produced a more honest intimate conversation.

L: What are the most important aspects of your life right now ? Why?

N: Most important for me right now, I'm starting to develop a spiritual way of life. Trying to center myself with some sort of concept or relationship with something other than myself. Like a higher power, God, creative intelligence. That is the most important part of my life because it's making my outlook and perspective on my life and the people in my environment around me [much] better. Secondly, in that whole spiritual demonstration, is my art. I'm a video student and those two things are connected for me.



L: What are the most difficult parts of your life and how do you deal with those?

N: Trying to change the way I think about people, race, class, and gender. I have a lot of fixed and superstitious ideas about politics and how people should act. I'm looking at where I play a major part in continuing those social ills. That's difficult because I feel my ideas are cool and I should keep them, but that's not true. I'm finding it's more harmful to keep these ideas. That's really all I'm dealing with. I have a really nice job, I make a living, I have an affordable apartment and I have a great set of friends. So my support system is my set of friends and my spiritually.

L: How do you feel or what do you think about being in your twenties? Are you happy not to be a teenager anymore?

N: That I have a long life ahead of me . I'm grateful that I'm this young. I'm 25 and that's cool. I'm glad not to be a teenager. I didn't have a very good time then. I was confused, but those experiences were priceless because I wouldn't have what I have right now if I didn't have those experiences.

L: Is there a "best" and "worst" you can attribute to your age?

N: The best thing is ... I'm alive and awake and I'm aware, and I'm not depressed, and like checking into hospitals and stuff. The things in my life right now are only going to make my life better later. The only thing about being this young, and being young, and sort of young minded is that I am probably making a lot of mistakes that I am going to laugh at later. There really is no worse thing except I spent like two or three years of my early twenties not having enough fun and being miserable.

L: If you could tell teens and those 30 and up something important what would that be?

N: What I didn't know and I know now. Especially for teens who are queer and teens who are queer and of color, that's a really hard load to take on depending on how you were raised, and what your thinking patterns are. Especially to those teens ... there's really a whole big world out there and it really isn't as scary as it looks if one has the right attitude. Positive thinking is definitely a plus. For those 30 and up ... I hope that they are living life to the fullest because time's a tickin'.

L: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

N: Definitely self supportive. Producing my work and showing it. Hopefully I'll be in the middle of a very promising career. Living life as happy as I am right now.

L: What are some of the things you would like to see changed in the Les/bi/gay community in Chicago? What role do you see yourself playing in that?

N: I'd like to see us being more visible. I'm really looking for some community as a family thing. I'm not interested in letting everybody in the world know who I am because I don't care what they think as much. It's not about me trying to get somebody's approval anymore. I'm trying to get away from that. I think we would have more joy there if it was less political. My role in that ... producing work [video and performance] that shows one can be happy in their own skin no matter what anybody says or does. Throughout my almost seven years as a "Twentian," I've had many general conversations with my peers about life. I've found that a good number of us are in school to fulfill our dreams and working to pay our rent. Some like myself are even experiencing the joys and responsibilities of parenthood. We still have dreams. We've come into this age carefree and we'll leave with our wrinkles and laugh lines of honor. Some of us are starting to plan our own retirement by seeking information on stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc. We're beginning to define what we want in a lifemate, or decide if that's what we want at all. Most of us are looking for ways to be creative, active, women in our communities. We are generally a more mature group of twenty-year-olds than those of the past. One common theme is, "We don't miss our teenage years. The fun is just beginning." We're still happy and adventurous but wiser as well. On the idea of interacting with those 30 and older, our experiences vary. Some of us have been looked down upon and treated as if we were children. We have not been taken seriously and we have not been included in the evolvement of our communities.

Some of us, however, have been seen for who we really are, mature, responsible beings in the world with a fair share of insight. At the Black Women's Expo this year, Sheryl Lee Ralph warned older women not to degrade or ignore our sisters in their twenties. She exclaimed that we are energetic, innovative, and exciting to be around. Yes we are all teachers and students.

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On a personal note, I would like to see more sisters honestly supporting one another. For example, only one social group that I called regarding this project responded ... one group. We can not advance at any age without trust and faith among ourselves. Yes we all make mistakes but please learn from them. If you would like to respond to this article, or would like to have your views on being twenty something heard, please write the managing editor.

Journey

by Donnyea Stokes

The journey that I travel is one of a long road and is far from over
The journey that I travel I feel like no one knows.
The journey that I travel I can hardly see
The journey that I travel is carved deep inside of me
The journey that I travel is tattooed deep in my chocolate skin
and sometimes captures my mind and conquers my soul.
The journey that I travel is the kind ...
The kind you can't hold in your hands
But wish you could touch.
It's more like an emotion
Something that overwhelms inside that you no you can never change
but maybe
one day you will see it in your eyes
If you know it in your heart and believe it in your mind
Then ...
Just maybe
You can travel this journey with me
Than you will know how it feels
Not to touch or see
To be confused by the journey that goes on
Inside of me.

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Books for the shelf

by La Jaunessee Jordan

Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood is a new book by **bell hooks.** "It is the story of girlhood rebellion, of my struggle to create self and identity distinct from and yet inclusive of the world around me," hooks said. "Writing imagistically, I seek to conjure a rich magical world of southern Black culture that was sometimes paradisiacal and at other times terrifying. While the narrative of family life I share can be easily label dysfunctional, significantly that fact will never alter the magic and mystery that was present—all that was deeply life sustaining and life affirming. The beauty lies in the way it all comes together exposing and revealing the innerlife of a girl inventing herself—creating the foundation of self-hood and identity that will ultimately lead to the fulfillment of her true destiny—becoming a writer" ... "not enough is known about the experience of black girls in our society. Indeed, one of my favorite novels in the whole world is the *Bluest Eye*" by Toni Morrison. When the book was first published she explained that it was her desire to write about 'the people who in all literature who were peripheral—little black girls who were props, background; those people were never center stage and those people were me,'" bell hooks said. "This is autobiography as truth and myth—as poetic witness. ... laying out the groundwork of my early life like a crazy quilt, *Bone Black* brings together fragments to make a whole. Bits and pieces connect in a random and playfully irrational way. ... We look back as if we are standing at a distance. Examining life retrospectively we are there and not there, watching and watched. Evoking the mood and sensibility of moments, this is an autobiography of perception and ideas. The events described are always less significant than the impressions they leave on the mind and heart," hooks said of *Bone Black.*

The Little Things

by Dailyn Wilson

I love my woman 'cause her beautiful hair is long ...
or short
It's the way she elegantly throws it back
or how she respectfully wears her hat

I love my woman 'cause the way she says *I love you*
or the way she shows it
"I love you baby" or when she gently rubs my feet
That's the way we grow, that's how she loves me

I love my woman 'cause she holds me close even
When she don't want none
And it's the little things like that
that make me want to give her some

I love my woman 'cause when I'm feeling down
She gives me words of encouragement
"Baby you can do anything you wanna do" she tells
me and that's what helps me make it through

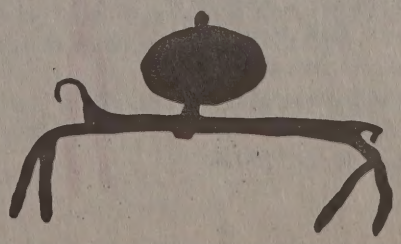
I love my woman 'cause when she walks by,
Looking so sexy, and knows I'm watching, she'll put
in the extra switch and booty shake for me
Because she knows though I hate to see her go,
I love to watch her leave

I love my woman 'cause when I f*** up royally and
sincerely didn't mean it
I don't run the risk of losing her
because she loves me unconditionally
She's gonna stand by me

I love my woman 'cause when we go out to eat
She doesn't mind sharing her food with me
We dip from the same sauce and eat from the same
tender piece of meat

I love my woman 'cause when we're making
passionate love
The sounds of ecstasy she makes with me
indicates to me that I'm doin' it her way
Doin' the right things to make her scream and show
me how very much she appreciates

All the things my woman does makes up what we share
The love we share, those little things help put it there
The little things are why we're able to say
Lovely things at the end of a rainbow day.



Journeying Home

by M. Eliza Hamilton (Aboku Osun Ekeji)

From December 27, 1998 through February 20, 1999, I was the lead team teacher for Leg One of the Middle Passage Voyage captained by Bill Pinkney. Our goal: to retrace the route of the Middle Passage via boat and to communicate to schools and museums nationwide the impact that Africa and Africans had on the world. I started in Puerto Rico and ended in Brazil. In between, I traveled to places within mySelf (sic) that I can only speak about intermittently.

I have been back over a month now and I can tell you that my life has been changed forever. Everything I ever believed in was challenged by this trip. In the end, when all the publicity has died down and when I begin to write in detail about it, I will have lost quite a bit, including friends, family, and whatever illusions/ strongholds I have gathered about mySelf to keep "me" together.

'Billie'
by Juarez Hawkins

However, I will have gained just as much, especially a deeper knowledge and understanding of mySelf as an African-Caribbean woman. More than anything, this trip brought me face-to-face with those parts of mySelf that had been struggling to get out. The stories of the ancestors who are buried at the bottom of the ocean were given to me. Through them I began to see my present life more fully as a path of healing and change, a path that would have a profound effect on everything in my life once I returned to Chicago.

I am committed to sharing what was given to me while traveling for over a month on the Atlantic Ocean. I learned a great deal about sailing a 78-foot pilot house ketch, and I learned about trust and love. Finally, what I have always known was confirmed: as descendants of Africans, we are a powerful group who have yet to tap into the ancestral gifts that are ours for the asking.

The following prose poems (*Keeping Watch: On Route to Brazil* and *Lessons in Sailing,* on the next page) speak to part of the experience that I had with Captain William Pinkney and with the ancestors.

M. Eliza Hamilton is a daughter of Osun. She is a Reiki Master, tarot reader, and poet. Anyone interested in more information about this voyage, or in need of services, should contact her at 312-664-4230.

Keeping Watch: On Route to Brazil

by M. Eliza Hamilton (Aboku Osun Ekeji)

He tells me about the harness that shackles him to the vessel, its high
quality nylon designed to keep him safe. How the sound like heavy metal against
thunder recalls the lost memory of the collar that choked him every time he breathed.

I want to tell him that the teak beneath my feet lives even after cutting. How it
carried the root stories of oak and pecan, ebony and baobab. For every naked inch of my
flesh that touches a plant, I mark my location with grave sites not longitude.

I have known this since birth: I am the last one left because centuries ago, the ship which carried 425 of us arrived carrying only me. One night I dare put one sole on deck, my own voice frightens me as I sing the stories of people whose tongues have been cut, but who insist on speaking.

He tells me the voices of children wake him at night. Their laughter surrounds him.
Their tiny fingers pat him on the shoulder and rub his balding head. Then they let the
waves carry them where he cannot follow and where I have already gone.

They bang themselves against the hull of my bunk until I am bruised by their urging that I am the vessel being carried. I want to tell him about the screaming inside my head since Barbados. Sister, they say, I have left my story here: under your armpit, in your left eye. In your womb. Remember: Memory is your gift to us. Remember the chains that bind us, make us whole.

He tells me softly: You've not had the benefit of night watch when the ancestors walk above deck. I laugh quietly and want to tell him: It is not only above deck that we walk. But I am silent. One day, we will speak of the things that haunt us.

for Captain Bill Pinkney

Greedy!

by Cathyann Joseph

They were full in my hand when I cupped them.
They were round and firm like a peach.
I didn't know that when I kissed them,
She would squeal and start to reach.

She told me that I should go lower,
So I slid my tongue down her side.
I lifted her legs on my shoulders
And spread her other peach open wide.

OOOH! you should've heard her moaning
When I slowly inserted by tongue
And rolled it around on her cherry
Licking inside her walls.
And when I inserted my finger,
Oh, you should have seen her crawl!

Shaking and jérking and bouncing
To the rhythm of my every thrust.
I loved how she screamed with excitement
When her climax started to burst.

I slowly pulled out my finger.
It was slippery, glistening, sore.
And before I could even taste it,
She started to beg for more.

Butch with a Purse

by Cathyann Joseph

Me, gay? Why would you say that?
Because you see me wearing baggy pants and a hat cocked to the back?

So what if I wear blue jeans and plaid shirts
Rather than fishnets and tight skirts.
That doesn't necessarily mean I'm a ... LESBIAN!
See, there you go, stereotyping.

No! I don't think I walk too hard.
It's a comfortable stride
'Cause I don't wear shoes with heels too high.

My hair, natural, usually cut low.
Curling irons and all that styling's not for me.
I like to get up and go.

Sure, I admire women and their feminine ways.
When they walk ... those hips just sway.
That sexy crawl get me soooo dizzy.
But, I'm not gay!
Yet you call me butch anyway.

Can't you see I have a purse, a handbag ... whatever you call it, it's here.
It rests snugly on my shoulder, packed with lipsticks and eyeliners that I never wear.
Oh, and of course, a couple condoms, because I do sleep with men.
So, don't bring up those women again.
I told you they were all just friends.
It was just a one ... two ... OK, three-time thing.
Crossing my fingers, it won't happen again.

by Juarez Hawkins

And still you don't believe I'm the feminine type?
I thought if the breasts don't convince you, then the purse surely might.
But it's camouflage, you don't see it, you point your finger and say "DYKE."

The more you say it the more I wonder, maybe I'm the one who's blind.
Trying to hide my sexual preference.

By hanging a purse on my side.

Lessons in Sailing

by M. Eliza Hamilton (Aboku Osun Ekeji)

It all comes back to sex. Whether or not you've ever handled a woman's body. Correctly.

There are ways. But old courtesans will tell that the only true way is to enter the hold
and never look back. Once in, open each hatch until you know what locks it, what springs it free.

Oh, yes, she will tell you in the middle of the night what makes her creak, what makes her
moan; what makes her turn over like a puppy and yelp to be rubbed just below her belly
in tight, soft circles.

But you have to listen. Your finger on her pulse, your toe at the sole of her foot. Your ear near her mouth. Each sigh is a separate language and if you are a good student interpretation will be simultaneous. Your body will know when and how to change its tack, and how to ride her to get the most out of her breath.

And she will love you for it. Love you enough to open and close herself around your fist
in ways you never dreamed.

Only then will you be able to guide her in the dark with your eyes closed. Your fingers will know how to curve her wettest scalding folds. Your tongue will know how deep to taste the salt and cream spilling over her bow.

Only then will you recognize her thankful crying as the wind whispering your name.

Walking and Entering with Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant

by Rashad Burgess

"It is essential that non-gay Black people recognize and respect the hardships, the difficulties gay Black people experience, extending the love and understanding that is essential for the making of authentic Black community."—bell hooks

And I entered! As I walked through the lobby at the West Atlanta North to attend the 12th National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum Conference in February, I was simply awestruck by the presence of so many beautiful Black Same-Gendered Loving People. It was actually somewhat unusual for me to have such a strong emotional reaction because I have attended many conferences of these sorts, but somehow I felt spiritually uplifted or, better yet, revived by walking through the door. Maybe I had an inclination that this conference would have a lasting impact on my life.

I was excited that I would have a chance to fellowship with my brothers and sisters, as well as some of the great legends in our community. But also, I think I was more excited by the fact that some of our great allies would be doing the keynotes. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant were among the list of distinguished keynotes.

There is always something very exciting when our community, the same-gendered loving community, and our brothers and sisters of other sexual orientations, have a chance to dialogue, inspire and encourage one another. Dr. Grant has always been an ally and sees herself closely connected with us and is continuously on the battlefield combating homophobia, especially within the Black community.

Dr. Grant, the "Sistah Psychologist," has a monthly advice column in ESSENCE MAGAZINE. In her column, "Between Us," she addresses issues from infidelity to abusive relationships to finding soulmates to coming out. In the May issue of ESSENCE, she will be responding to a young gay man who has low self-esteem. She has been on almost every talk show from *Oprah*, to *Ricky*, to *Geraldo*, discussing almost every ism and phobia that we, as Black folks, experience. Also, she is a wife, mother and a real advocate of the community.

The theme of her speech at the Leadership conference was coming to yourself. She outlined seven steps and principles that allow this to happen:

1. Learn to be with Yourself
2. Compliment Yourself
3. Empower Yourself
4. Forgive Yourself
5. Love Yourself
6. Claim Yourself
7. Celebrate Yourself

A critical point that she closed with was reminding us not to have a "Dot Sex Mentality," reducing our completeness to pieces and parts. She suggested that all of a person is sexual, as well as sensual.

After her energetic and uplifting address, the press had an opportunity to interview her. When we were at the table conducting the interview, I had a huge affinity and admiration for her. Although her presence is very commanding and she is always thinking on a very theoretical plain, at the same time she is very down to earth, referring to herself as the "soul psychologist." And truly she speaks from her heart and soul. All of her life she has been committed to helping our community deal with issues of sexuality. She stated that, "sex is where you speak from, [it is] who you are." Her understanding of sexuality and its role in human life is very encouraging. But also she has a phenomenally deep spiritual belief system that is closely connected with her views about sexuality. Her spirit is driven by her belief that "the only thing between you and what you want is your mind." As I began to think about how so many of us have allowed *us* to defeat *us*, I wanted to scream, "That is it!" This is the ideology that will empower our community; this is how we will enter into the new millennium empowered.

Dr. Grant's words and image continually play through my mind. I find myself asking myself, "Do I see myself in fragments? Am I coming to myself?" As I entered this conference experience I did not expect for it to have such an impact on me by giving me some life-changing advice. Entering into the next phases of our lives I hope and pray that we are all able to come to ourselves and enter as complete and whole persons.

Finally, I offer thanks and prayers to those of us who are on the battlefield fighting homophobia, racism and other phobias and isms and I give special recognition to our allies who are also fighting this battle.

Burgess is Site Manager of Harambee Wellness Center of Howard Brown Health Center.

Brothers Committed to Living

by Lester Davis

The proud recipients of the Bayard Rustin Award for social organization of 1998 and 1999 are looking for brothers who are committed to living. If that's you, then take a ride on our BUS to help us brothers celebrate out 5th Annual Summer Retreat, July 8-11, 1999 at Camp Ronora in Watervielt, Mich. BUS gives strong, sincere support to African-American gay and bisexual men living with

HIV/AIDS.

Brothers United in Support (BUS) is a program of Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), a non-profit AIDS service organization, located at 1258 W. Belmont.

TPAN is the Midwest's largest self-help organization for persons living with, or impacted by, HIV and AIDS.

Brothers United has enhanced the quality of lives of African-American bisexual and gay men to live with this disease and have a better outlook on life. BUS has been providing peer-led support, fellowship, education, and self-empowerment to its members and the community. Some of their services include weekly support group discussions, various social activities, and an annual weekend retreat for HIV+ men of African descent.

I began the idea of a BUS retreat in 1994. We focused on issues that we normally would not have time to talk about at our Thursday night drop-in, so we dedicate an entire weekend to nurture and support of one another. Workshops, Saturday night talent shows, canoeing, swimming, horseback riding, brotherly love and good fun are what we do at our retreats.

We feel as if we are our brothers' keeper. Why? Many people have died, because they have not been able to talk about what is going on with their own lives.

We show them that they are not in this by themselves.

For more information on our 5th Annual Summer Retreat, call (773) 404-TPAN. Call to reserve a seat for yourself on our BUS.

How I See It

Femmes, Stand and Be Counted

by C.C. Carter

Lately, I've been questioning about where I fit in this world and what part I play in the fight and struggles of the Lesbigay movement. "You see, I'm a femme—a lipstick lesbian—a real girlie girl, so I can pass—smelling like a straight girl in my Victoria Secret satin panties—" from StaceyAnn Chin's 'Passing' poem. I recognize that my existence in this movement is almost nonexistent because often we—femmes—are silent; loving our butch women and letting them be the forerunners as well as the forebrunters of everything wonderful about lesbian life, and everything hateful that induces homophobia. We sit by passively watching and listening, but not speaking—making others in the straight world and even in our own mislabel us as submissive. Yet, lately I have been consciously taking notes, on myself that is. I have tuned into my body language, my thoughts, and my actions when my lover and I walk down the street passing by men watching us as we go. I grab her arm, I smile in her face, I kiss her cheek, she moves me to the inside and sticks out her chest. I've done my job well, I think to myself. I can't be silent anymore while my lover is on constant dyke watch lists.

I know that it is me next to her, that outs her to the world. She, when alone or with other friends like her, is a cute home girl that appears tomboyish. She is still considered attractive to men who refuse to see beyond the size 38C breasts she wears like armour. But me with her, reaffirms their suspicion that she's a dyke, and I'm just her bisexual girlfriend that he could still have if I ever get tired of dealing with plastic, the fake stuff, and want the real thing. "My friend is in trouble—somebody takes the time to notice that the young boy is really a young girl, and the oversized red, white, and blue jacket is not enough to cover the tattoo on her belly—two naked women wrapped around each other like pretzels—It takes two minutes for them to break two ribs, she knows that butch bodies are too strong too strange too dark like the bronze bodies that smell too thickly of rebellions and revolutions." ('Passing'). He can't stand knowing that she does to me what he wants to do to me and I like it. I can no longer let her fight this war alone, when I am part of the cause.

I have begun to realize that there is power in my femmeness, that which I claim, that which I own, that which I am. My appearance is a sneak attack, making people drop their guards when they're next to me—leaving them targets for my words to put them in deep check when they slip and think that I am one of them. My definition of Femme is the appearance and mannerisms that one visibly associates with the actions and look of "ladylike" demeanors. The definition does not transcend into the bedroom analysis, because even in being Femme there are levels—Femme tops, strictly bottoms, Femme-butches, ultra Femmes, and the list goes on. Which brings me to how I see it. In late February, I went to the Outwrite Writer's Conference in Boston. Among the many workshops and panel discussions that I attended, I found the "Femme" panel most interesting. First of all, that there was a need to even have a Femme panel sparked my initial curiosity. Second, that there were many people in the audience who really thought that Femme women had little effect on the lesbigay movements of the past and present. What did people think? That all those butch women in the public eye all slept with women like themselves? Which really made me think, what have I done lately to contribute to the movement? What have I done to increase visibility for women such as myself? Maybe our silence is the reason that it usually takes women like us more years, more divorced marriages, more domestic violence cases, before we acknowledge that we are lesbian. This may also be why more women resist the term Femme, because in the media, in the schools, in the job, in the neighborhood, where we usually are passing in silence, Femme means weak and frail. I knew at eleven that I liked women, but there were no visible role models who looked like me, acted like me, dressed like me whom I could talk to. Fifteen very volatile years later then I was tortured and scarred trying to start over, yet still never being visible just being the prize, the pedestal, the trophy. I never realized how important it is for Black lesbians to be seen and heard, especially Black Femmes, until I went to Whitney Young's Pride Day event last year. As I walked into the room, and waited for the class to settle down, a young femme looking girl in the audience asked her teacher, "So where's our guest speaker, everyone else has one." I replied that I was the guest speaker, and she said, "You sure don't look like one." I had made a conscious effort to wear a dress and pumps, with hair laid and face beat, because I knew that had I known at fifteen what I found out at twenty five, my life and agonies would have been different. For butch women it seems that their coming out experiences are a lot different. Usually through sports, or very similar interests/noninterests in males, they find each other early in life. There are more visible role models in the media for them, even if most of them are white. For femmes that never played sports, would never be caught climbing trees or getting in dirt, yet know intrinsically from that first boy kiss, that "something ain't right," what options do we have, and who do we turn to, except to put the blame on our selves and try to assimilate as straight as possible. She (the young lady) came up to me afterwards and asked if she could be on my mailing list. Many other young ladies such as herself, also became very inquisitive after the group sessions. Two teachers said their classes specifically asked for me to come back. It was then that I knew that my silence was something that the future generations could not afford.

Yet, I constantly run into Femme women who when they speak in public, say, "Well I'm just a femme but —." There is no such thing as being "just" anything, especially Femme. We have just as much to say, and offer, and have many role models as those who aren't us. I don't condemn those who resist "labels," yet to deny that there is a privilege in the way Femme women experience the world because of the way we present ourselves to the world, is denying that there aren't certain ethnicities which enjoy privilege ove.

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

CC from 23

others. And if you can't deny the latter then you can't deny that Butch and Femme coexistence is prevalent in seven out of ten lesbian relationships. All over the country there is a rise in a new movement stirring—the Femme Movement. Conferences are addressing issues that pertain to Femme women and many self-help sister groups are adding Femme components to their agenda. I am ambivalent about all of this. I can't believe there are that many Femme women who don't know how powerful they are. That Self-Empowering The Femme workshops and panels are becoming necessary. Yet, I recently submitted my Dear Femme poem to an all-Butch anthology; it was accepted. That is until at the Outwrite Conference in the Femme panel (no doubt), the editor of the anthology met me for the first time and told me that Femmes could not be contributors to the book. This was after she had e-mailed me, when she thought I was Butch, for more poetry to include. I never told her I wasn't Butch, but her submission call never specified that you had to be Butch either. She told me I could be in the anthology if I interviewed my partner and phrased it in her words. So, yeah, I do see the need for a Femme movement in this case. Many times it is Butches who help silence the voices of Femmes. "Sit and be pretty." But often we silence ourselves, never in the limelight, never speaking unless spoken to, and always blending in with crowds—unnoticeable. So this is an all-call, to those who are women, and femme, and ready to be visible. Come to the front line ladies, show your face. You've got to be present and noticed to be counted. Some little cheerleader's life depends on it. Now I could be wrong, but that's how I see it.

A Black Lesbian and Politically Correct—Or am I?

by Sherri Jackson

I would like to think I am a Black, woman, lesbian, and politically correct most of the time. I try to be down for the cause on issues that have an impact on the Black community. So, how do you play that part when you are a mixture of Black, Cuban, Native American, French Creole, and White?

With the recent passing of my biological, eldest, brother who lived on the West Coast, some mysteries would be discovered. These discoveries would be left behind for me to find. The missing pieces I have searched for all my life. If you ever want a can of worms to be opened, and all the things you thought—let a death or birth take place!

The people in the family with the most silence, or who say they have no clue or say, "Baby I can't remember that," usually know all the dirt. Did I mention I was adopted? We were all split up at birth and placed on the auction block and distributed to so-called family members. Maybe this explains my fondness for community activism, especially around issues of women and youth. I was there to put my brother to rest and support my biological siblings. Next to us would stand a woman I had no clue about or a bond to. Only that she had lots of children, seven or more, and did not keep a one. I would flip through the pages of my brother's photo album (he, too, was gay) to discover a photo of a man who was my biological father. A very dark man with a mixture of Black and Cuban. Of course I was in shock, but not disbelief. Hell, I look at myself everyday in the mirror. I knew I was mixed with something. As I looked at this woman who was lighter than me, a mixture of Black, French Creole, and White, my bio mother, looking more white. I wondered how would my role in my community activism work change now? Or would that work remain focused only in the Black community? I had been raised Black. Not with all the other colors that made me. Would I want to check the box marked "other" now? And what about the story I had just heard, that in my biological family we had a great-great-grandfather on my maternal side who was white and was a slave owner. Now I was pissed! I had flashbacks of visiting the South with my adoptive family. My adoptive father, being considered a dark hue, and my adoptive mother of light skin, we were always looked at weird upon our visits to the South. Black and White alike would stare at us and whisper. I recall my adoptive mother taking me with her the first time I was able to vote. Before we took this journey together she sat down with me and explained how Black folds were killed and also died for this right to vote. She would explain how women who have always been considered second-class citizens had to earn this right as well. I thought how was I going to act now toward my white brothers I hang out with and sit at the board tables with. Would I think everyone who is a white man like my great-great-grandfather capitalized off of my Black skin, and raped my many ancestors who were women, even more so now? How was I going to handle this so-called Thomas Jefferson Syndrome now? I wondered what the reaction from my Black brothers and sister would be if I chose not to sit at the table because all of me wasn't represented at that table. I could hear it now: "You must choose, Sherri. What color are you going to be?" What would I say to my many friends who are Latin and Native American if I wanted to sit at a table, but my skin would be considered too Black and I was too Black for them. So much flashed through my mind as I was looking at the unsolved pieces being unraveled.

I thought these are the pieces I have long searched for about me and I am sure I will discover more as time goes on. I recall still looking at the photo album of my now-deceased brother, and at a photo of a man I never had the chance to meet or know—my father. I was told he was killed. I would wonder many times passing people on the street, was that my father? Who was I to believe? I wondered who was trying to protect who by keeping that part of me hidden? I was saddened and happy at once. I thought I would never say I wasn't a Black, woman, and lesbian. But, I also would not go into denial of those other parts about myself either. I would continue to work in the community as I feel I always have. I choose to work with everyone.

I am always reminded of the color of my Black and skin of many great colors when I am denied access for a promotion at work, or mistaken in my professional job in the healthcare field as the housekeeper or the folks that deliver the food. I am never the person that actually gives patient care. In doing my activism I am denied on occasion because I am simply a woman and lesbian. I sometimes cannot buy my way into the top to play the games we must play or choose not to play in this society.

I recall returning to Chicago after seeing my brother's ashes going to a better place. I thought he must have known all this time; he was just waiting for the right time, in his own time.

So, yes I will continue to work harder now and when I look in the mirror I will have to wear many hats now. But, I truly feel I always have. I will mesh these pieces together of my heritage and being taught the many struggles fought for. Maybe when someone asks me why I do the work I do in the community, now he will have some clue. But, I truly thought we did this work for personal, passionate reasons.

This story goes out to my many sister friends of darker and lighter hues who fight in the struggle of adversity and fight in the everyday struggles of being a female and/or lesbian. And this also goes out to those who are still searching for the missing pieces, like myself they were taken in by someone else either a biological family member or non-biological family member. Let us continue the struggles together across all lines, not just the color line but also class and sex.

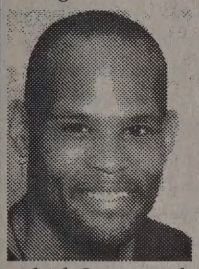
Keep the faith. I did and I still do.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Underground Techniques

DJ Harry T

Congratulations to Le Condo Club for being awarded "Club of the Year" at the Ketty Awards which were held at the Baton Show Lounge. They have come a long way to bring the finest in Latin entertainment and you, the community have been the key to their success, for which I say muchos gracias mi gente.



Summer has come upon us and the streets will be heating up with some new releases. Chicago's own Celeda will drop her debut album, *This Is It* and release the the first single, "Be Yourself." Some great underground tracks have been released that should not be missed: the "Last Stop" ep from YMC, Johnny Fiasco gives us another taste of his artistry by releasing "All Access 2." Phunky Data "Fashion" features the Ian Pooley mix but I think the flip is a much better floor filler. Don't miss the "Foreplay ep" with four hot different tracks out on Transmat records. Kevin Yost follows up from his previous single, "One Starry Night" to release "If She Only Knew." Also, check out his new release CD, *Small Town Underground.* For those who need a higher elevation to build to their groove, pick up "Body Rock" by MRE, "Baby Wants To Ride" by Hani and "The Musik" by Orange.

DJ Harry T Top 5

1. Muchacho - Da Cuban Heels
2. Wanna Give It Up - Ralphi Rosario feat. Linda Clifford
3. Turn Me On - Danny Tenaglia feat. Liz Torres
4. Discotek - Funky Green Dogs
5. If She Only Knew - Kevin Yost

| soul journal | by j.

| **Cree Summer - *Street Faërie* (Work)** | While Lauryn Hill continues to top the charts, it's easy to forget that the state of popular R&B is as stagnant as ever. Most people are unaware that for every Lauryn, Erykah and Maxwell, there are various other Black artists evolving the musical form. Some African Americans, when tired of the repetitive and narrow-minded lyrics of popular R&B turn to other forms of music, such as rock, alternative or country, generally not created by Black artists. Enter Cree Summer, whose debut has enough oomph! to make one forget she portrayed the clumsy Freddie on the sitcom *A Different World.* Co-written by Summer, *Street Faërie* delivers the spiritually conscious goods. Lenny Kravitz does an immaculate job of arranging, performing and producing the bulk of the music, shifting from folk and blues to rock and soul (sometimes all in one song). Cree's versatile voice, often delicate, sometimes strong or husky, phrases insightful, mystical lyrics with assured conviction. Tribal, personal and honest (she sings about her period on "Miss Moon" and asks a "Curious White Boy/when am I gonna meet your Mama/met yo Daddy already"), this collection is worthy of critical and popular praise. "Fall," "Mean Sleep" (a fab duet with Lenny Kravitz) and "Soul Sister" shouldn't be missed. Fav track "Deliciously Down" should have you humming the hook "I need high prayers to breath through/and I need to shine like I used to/and I know that I'm not supposed to be for nothing" after the first listening. | **Inner Shade - *Four Corners* (Rice)** | Bluey Maunick has assembled another group of musicians (ala Incognito) to deliver a flavor of jazz funk. Although, utilizing several contributors from Incognito, plus an assortment of other accomplished musicians, *Four Corners* offers few surprises. Arrangements are fairly straightforward and even vocalist Maysa Leak sounds a bit uninspired on these rehashed songs. "Mood To Mood" is one of the few highlights, a bossa nova track which mutates to drum n' bass without batting an eye. | **Les Nubians Show @ House of Blues** | The story goes that WGCI (home of bass check shout outs) really wanted an afrocentric and Bohemian crowd (y'know people who have actually bought the Princesses Nubiennes CD) to attend this promo concert. However, you get what you (don't) pay for: two slightly bewildered Black, French sistas singing to a DAT in front of industry and radio ticket winners. Keep an eye out for this duo's return (with full band) to be duly rewarded by their talent.

BOOKSHELF:

End of Innocence

by Robert Schultz

***The End of Innocence: a journey into the life* by Alaric Wendell Blair, Mirage Publishing, 1998, $18.95, 249 pg.**

Fitzgerald Washington's coming-of-age story found in Alaric Wendell Blair's debut novel, *The End of Innocence: a journey into the life,* is a hard-to-put-down tale that will resonate with readers seeking an Afro-centric coming-out story.

Fitzgerald Washington is a smart-mouthed precocious South Side of Chicago African-American youth traversing the difficult teen years. Novelist Blair's depiction of Fitzgerald Washington's path to adulthood is firmly set within an African-American environment that rings true. The author ably takes the reader along with Washington's journey to maturation. Washington is quite a queen, even before the character learns what that is, but Washington's journey shows that even a life-long queen can pledge a fraternity and enlist in the navy.

Blair's character, Washington, is ably crafted as a gifted youth that is both rebellious and driven. Blair's pacing is comfortable and the reader will certainly have more than one good laugh. The occasional sex scenes are brief yet sufficiently erotic. Best of all the naïve but equally worldly Fitzgerald's stumbling into the "gay life" of African-American men is realistically portrayed.

For some time, the number of books by and about Black gay men has been filling up the bookshelf. *The End of Innocence: a journey into the life* is certainly a great book to place on that bookshelf. Fitzgerald Washington's struggle to come to terms with his life, and to find a place in society, is warmly portrayed, providing a world-view that may be unfamiliar to many, but will endure this volume to the audience most familiar with the novel's milieu.

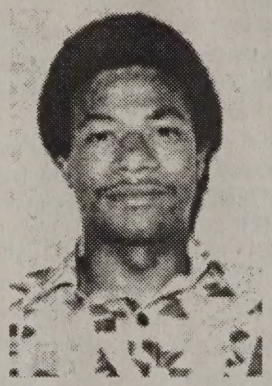
**Men's issue is coming in July ...
Deadline June 10.
Call (773) 871-7610, ask for
LaJaunessee's voice mail.**

Black Pearls

by Sukie de la Croix

Running for the 44th

"In 1980 I ran for office in the 44th Ward, and that was really a good experience that I really enjoyed, working to run as a candidate for public office. I had been a lieutenant on the alderman's campaign in 1980. We elected an independent who replaced Dick Simpson, and the guy we elected had a nervous breakdown in the first term of his year in office. The campaign committee came together and asked me to run. I ran against 'the machine,' against John Merlo, who was the Ward committee man before Bernie Hansen, and Bernie Hansen was a Ward superintendent and I was running as a candidate for alderman against Jane Byrne who was Mayor, and John Merlo who was running for alderman. I won 20 percent of the vote in 1980. Black, gay, and I was out and I had the gay paper endorsement, but it was just a very quick special election, it happened in three months. We had to go to court to demand an election and we won. And then we had three months to run a campaign, and with only three months, and not enough preparation, I did not win the election, but winning 20 percent as a very young, gay, Black man on the northside was pretty good." — Michael Harrington



The July 8, 1977 GAYLIFE newspaper had a news item on the first openly gay member of the Belmont Harbors Neighbors Association. David Ferrell, an active member of the Gay Rights Task Force, was elected to the Belmont board. It's a civic group concerned with the area bounded by Addison and Belmont, the Lake and Halsted. It is a member of the Lakeview Citizens Council.

Men of All Colors

"When I first joined the group ... we've been Men of All Colors Together now for about ten years, but before that we were Black and White Men Together. I knew about the group from back when it started in 1980. At the time I was in a relationship and I just perceived the group as a place where Black men could meet white men, and white men could meet Black men. After my relationship ended I thought, 'Well let me check this group out.' That was in about '85 when I first checked the group out, and I've been involved full-time ever since." —Les

Mattachine Midwest ...

"I'm a past president of Mattachine Midwest. It was in the early '70s. Tom Gertz was the president when I joined. He's back in Chicago now. Mattachine was the only ... well, I won't say 'only' as there was one other organization around at that time called ONE ... but Mattachine had a newsletter and it had a hotline, it had the only newspaper in Chicago, and that was before WINDY CITY TIMES, and GAY CHICAGO, and OUTLINES. I'm not exactly sure whether I read about Mattachine somewhere or I knew another member who invited to me to join. I do remember I used another name, everybody did. I used the name Ralph. There's still one person who knows me as Ralph when he sees me on the street ... (laughs) ..." — Ed

Mark III ...

"So here I am in college in '69 with a white friend of mine, Peggy, a hippie looking girl like me, and we go to the bar. Heavy duty butch stud. Ladies and Studs, and we've got on jeans, and we're like our regular hippie selves. She falls for this attractive young Black woman there who was a Lady. She goes over and starts dancing with her, and all of a sudden her Stud comes over to us, 'What the hell do you two think you're doing?' I said, 'Oh my friend is just trying to be nice and dance with your friend.' She said, "You and your white friend better get the hell out of here.' Next thing I know we are running down Cottage Grove heading for Hyde Park. But Peggy got the girl's phone number ... " — Vernita Gray

Snippets ...

In the 1961 movie *Raisin In The Sun*, starring Sidney Poitier and Claudia McNeil, there are a couple of scenes filmed in a bar. The bar used was the Kitty Kat Club—it's a rare chance to see an old Black gay bar. The play *Raisin In The Sun* was written by Chicago-born Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965), who was believed to be a lesbian or bisexual. The play won the New York Drama Circle Award, a first for an African-American. It also marked the first time a Black woman had a play produced on Broadway.

On April 18, 1970, the U of Chicago Gay Alliance held its third Chicago Liberation dance, the first off-campus, at the Coliseum on South Wabash. The University had thought that the dances on-campus were getting too big and were attracting too many non-University people. Insurance was obtained at the last moment by the contribution of a Black insurance executive. Expected raids did not materialize. The appropriate and fitting nature of holding the dance at the Coliseum, scene of so many drag and masquerade balls in the 1920s and 1930s, was not noted at the time. Does anyone know who this Black insurance executive was?

Famous Black lesbian bar Maxine's (also known as the Boulevard Room) on Jeffrey near 71st Street was raided by Chicago police early in March 1968. All of the patrons were arrested, taken to police headquarters at 12th and State, and charged with being inmates of a disorderly house.

Help me educate young gay people about our unwritten history. You can be anonymous.

Send your stories to Sukie de la Croix at BLACKLINES. He also interviews over the phone or by e-mail sukie@wwa.com

Jamaica news

The Jamaica Forum of Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays notes with interest some of the conditions attached to the decision of the United Kingdom to grant British citizenship to nationals of its dependent territories in the Caribbean. Especially noteworthy is the condition that the territories will be required to repeal their laws prohibiting certain homosexual acts. The Jamaican government has made it clear that the country will not change its laws regarding certain homosexual acts. J-FLAG cautions that such hard-line positions are untenable in a world of increased interdependence among nations. Call 876-978-1954 or village.fortunecity.com/garland/704

COMING OUT OF DARKNESS:

Progress Notes Part II

by Sanford E. Gaylord

In part I of Progress Notes (April BLACKLINES), I wrote about my follow-up visit with my doctor and our discussion about the casualties of my war with HIV. My results revealed that my CD4/T-Cell count was higher than it had ever been and my Viral Load (level of virus in the blood stream) was undetectable. At the end of the visit I was re-tested to confirm my HIV status.

I was haunted with the thought of what it would be to not be HIV+. Nearly a decade has passed since that August evening when I received a phone call informing me of my diagnosis and I became Haunted by Mr. Death. It has been a very long journey rebuilding my life after self-destructing and trying my best to make a positive life after testing positive for HIV. Choosing to fight HIV by claiming life after diagnosis has helped me to come out of a great deal of darkness.

Although I was re-tested for HIV because of those favorable results it was done in part because my medical records still hadn't arrived at my new doctor's office. He informed me during that last visit that I shouldn't get my hopes up because the results could come back positive but for now the casualties of war were in my favor and not HIV's. I kept what he said in mind after leaving his office but I couldn't stop thinking what it would mean if I weren't HIV+. In the week's time before I received the results I went back inside of myself in search for answers.

I told a couple of friends about the results of my latest visit and they were just as amazed as I was about my good news and health, especially my mother. She and I have developed a stronger bond and friendship since my father's transition. My mother asked me "what I would do if the results revealed that I weren't HIV+; have you ever prayed to God to remove the virus from your body?" There was a long pause before I answered. I had to go inside of myself to answer the question. I had to admit to her and myself that I had never prayed to have HIV removed from my body; I had no idea what I would do if the results came back negative. I continued by saying that I know that I probably wouldn't be here if I hadn't tested positive because it helped me to focus and fight to make all my dreams become realities as well as setting new goals.

Flashing back, I told my mother that this has happened before. I've had a high CD4 count and undetectable Viral Load without the therapeutic armamentarium that I now take. It was only after my count had dropped and Viral Load had skyrocketed in my seventh year without meds that I decided that I should take them. It took another year to actually start what would become a daily ritual for the rest of my life or until there's a cure for HIV/AIDS —and we still are nowhere close to the cure.

Results from my CD4 count and Viral Load have been at their best when I am happy and doing the things that enrich my life both mentally and spiritually. Being a performance artist and writer are dreams fulfilled. They are my way of giving back to the universe and my blessings have been bountiful. I finally found faith after a serious search inside of myself last summer with the Adodi retreat. I have become more in touch with my spirit because I am able to pray to God at night and ask to be made more of a miracle than I am. Having a safe space to give thanks to God, at Church of the Open Door, has only enriched my spirit because I'm around other same-gender-loving brotha's and sista's who look and talk like me. I know these things have had to help me stay healthy and be the miracle that I am.

A week later I received my results from the blood draw. I was informed that I was still HIV+ but that I have highly controlled virus in my system. The enemy, HIV, has been contained but not removed.

HIV is still present in my lymphatic system and all the tissues of my body.

I look at it as a good thing. Adhering to the strict dosing regimen of my meds has helped dramatically. Becoming more in touch with my own spirit and relationship with God has helped heal many of the scars that I have inside.

My journey, my war is far from over. There is a lot of work to be done.

Thank-you Moma for helping me in my search. I love you.

briefly ...

Memorial Day Weekend is fast approaching and the **9th Annual Black Lesbian and Gay Family Day Picnic** will be the highlight of the weekend. This annual event will be held May 31, 1999 at Lots 23&24, Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. from 10 a.m. until dusk. "We would like to take this opportunity to invite you and yours to the picnic," organizers said. For further information, visit their website at http://www.security911.com or email BPicnic99@aol.com.

The **2nd Annual BGC (Black Gay & Lesbian Cruise)** will cruise a week before the 11th Annual ATB Malibu Beach Party. The BGC Cruise will feature Moonlight Dancing 'til dawn (with their own DJ), a Cock N Tail Party, exotic dancers and the Annual Talent Show. The Ship will depart The Port of Los Angeles and sail away for four cool days and four hot nights to Catalina Island and Ensenada Mexico. Call 1-888-922-2916 or email us at www.songmaster1.com.

Reva Thomas, a Ph.D. student at the California School of Professional Psychology in Alameda, CA, is writing her Ph.D. dissertation on the psycho-social development of African-American women, and in particular her study focuses on African-Americans who were teen mothers, received AFDC, earned professional degrees, and now have professional careers. Send suggestions to her at **Rreva@aol.com**

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GURLLLology 101 thru 401 Academic Networking

by Vicky Nabors

What up folks! Spring is in the air and I am feeling a sense of mental and spiritual awaking. This has caused me to visit a peculiar and strange side of my brain cells (chuckle). For real though! I've experienced lots of thoughts on various aspects of my existence and other issues that piss me off (see what I mean). So, I decided to share them with you in a question format. First, why do people invite you over to their homes for dinner and ask you to bring the meal? And, why does Ms. Butterworth syrup only talk to children? Why do we have to experience the pathetic rebuilding of the once magnificent Chicago Bulls? And, does anyone else feel the pain of each defeat like I do? When will parents really understand? Hey! Why did mom make me wear ugly dresses during my teen years? And, why did she force me to go to church every Sunday, wearing uncomfortable/ugly heels and stockings that always seemed to run before I left the house? (I looked like a drag queen—too butch.) Do you believe in God or a Higher Power? And, why did they have to take my gurls on *Living Single* off the air? What about us colored peoples? And, on the real tip gurls, what is a STUD? Does such a personality truly exists, or is it a facade? Is there life outside of the homosexual community? Is there life inside of the homosexual community? If the answer to both of these questions is yes, then can they be intertwined in an individual's life—balanced? Hey! Whatever happened to the Uga Chagga Dancing Baby? And, will someone pop a cap on that Taco Bell mutt? Speaking of death, why did my daddy have to die? Have you ever thought about truth and reality? What is your truth, your reality and what is it based on? Is it true that 'the more things change, the more they stay the same?' Will we ever be free? Black womyn—will we?

OK, I feel much better now that I've released that internal pressure, so, on to my guest writer. Yvette speaks to us again.

Hey! It took me six months to get the nerve to finally go to a gay club. Why, you ask? Well, when I finally decided that I was a lesbian, I wanted to meet some people like me. The only way I knew how to do that was going to a gay club. The problem was that the club was basically on my college campus. Yep, I was scared to go because I didn't want my sorors or peers to know that I was gay. I also didn't want to be known as the Gay member of XYZ sorority. So every weekend, I would drive to the club and just sit in my car and watch the people go in and out. By doing this not only was I checking out the scene of the club, I was also able to see if anyone I knew from the College was anywhere around. So for those six months, I just weighed my options. Before you knew it, December had come and I was graduating. By this time, I knew that I had nothing to lose. So a week before I was graduating, I went to that club and stood on the wall the whole time. I realized there was nothing to be afraid of. I figured if I saw any of my classmates there, that only meant one thing, they were gay. So I graduated and I became a regular at the club. I met a few people, but I never really dated anyone that I met because I really just wanted to be friends. Have any of you sistas found it difficult to enter a gay establishment that was on or near your campus? Have any of you been scared to join an organizations that was for gays and lesbians and if so, How did you handle it?

Replies to vlnabors@neiu.edu or Lambda Publications, (BLACKLINES), Vicky Nabors, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

In the Raw

d.l. sanders

Two men are having sex; one or both of them are HIV positive. There is not a condom in sight. Instead, semen is being shot inside the anal cavity and bodily fluids are oozing down their throats. No one is alarmed. They both appear to be at ease, relaxed. Does this image bother you? Should it bother you? I can't answer that for you. When I set out to write this piece, I was writing a Baptist hellfire condemnation of barebacking. Then I took a real look inside myself and tried to see—well at least tried to figure out—the mentality or the thrill for those who choose to bareback. Yes, it is a choice and it is the option taken more often than you might want to believe.

What concerns me is that our community is embracing this notion of barebacking. One of the big ways is by giving it such a trendy name such as "barebacking" and not calling it what it really is: unsafe, destructive sex. At a recent roundtable, one lesbian voiced her anger over the unsafe sex trend. I'll paraphrase. "We (meaning lesbians) watched and leant our support in the 80s and early '90s while this disease ravaged the gay male community. We won't be there this time while you purposely do this to yourselves." Can't you understand this frustration? I know I can. But it goes a lot deeper than that.

I have never had unprotected penetrative sex, unless you count oral sex. I have made sure that I do not take in others' bodily fluids. I have had the desire to see what it is like to have unprotected sex. I have always believed, when there is a cure for HIV or when I have met the person of my dreams and we did the test, maybe then I would try it. For me, hearing countless friends talk about their friends who have passed on because of HIV infection has been enough to keep me practicing safe sex. I have not had a single friend die of HIV. I didn't think I would even have a conversation about having unprotected sex, until recently. I was amazed at how many people who I figured would never even think about it, were actually having unprotected sex. I heard reasons from they wanted to see how it felt to it was with someone they trusted and loved (most of this group hadn't been seeing that person for longer then six months).

What I heard the most was that exchanging bodily fluids was a spiritual event that made the sex even better.

Recently, my first and only love asked me about unprotected sex. As we talked I realized that neither of us had ever had unprotected sex. We're a year apart and our experiences are pretty similar. I listened to him talk about how he would like to experience this with me together. We love each other. He laid out a plan, we would go get tested and not have sex with anyone

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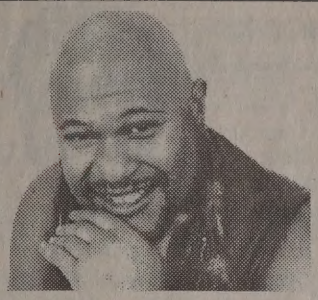
Leather Scene

by Cain Berlinger

Well, its that time of year again and International Mr. leather is just a few weeks away (Memorial Weekend in Chicago) and all over the country, wherever there's a platform, someone is holding a Leather title Contest. To the uninitiated these contests are simply beauty pageants and are often seen as simple entertainment. The truth of the matter is that these contests have become a major source of leather pride in the fact that it is the largest philanthropic arm of the Leather Community. It is not about the biggest pecs but a selection of the man/woman most equipped to handle the outreach required. They should look presentable and have a sense of themselves, their community and be willing to put themselves on the line to protect their rights and the communities they live in to live their lives as free and open as their sexuality allows and at the same time educate the public and provide valuable funding to organizations from AIDS causes to Toys for Tots.

What has this to do with the Black Community? Fewer contests have generated as much controversy as the Mr. Ebony Leather Contest held during International Mr. Leather Weekend. It is the only contest in this country that is open to People of Color exclusively. Contrary to popular belief it is open to ALL people of color including Latinos, Asians, Indians and other disenfranchised groups.

I recently had this letter forwarded to me from the West coast: a white gay male wrote in a letter commenting on "... why is it necessary for blacks to have their own titled contests, and clubs, etc. ... when clearly there has been black title holders." (He mentions Dee Cannon and the current Mr. Gay 1999.) He continued on by saying the gay commu-



nity has grown much too sensitivity (sic) to race and prejudice, and white men are becoming extinct. With all this reverse discrimination and separate black events" — he proposes white gay men contests and titles should be for only gay WHITE MEN.

A female spokesperson for the San Diego leather Community shares this view with me "... this is the same mindset of Northern California men regarding the MR. EBONY CONTEST when it was held in San Francisco. There seems to be a distinct threat to white men, regardless of how liberal they profess to be—when it comes to black folk wanting something separate from them. As in another case of a leather event held last year in San Diego. Out of 30 listed workshops, there was only one dealing with POC issues. The explanation given was that, the majority of gays don't like controversy nor rivalry. Many do not want to be embroiled in "separatist" issues, but will totally espouse to having separate male only clubs, play parties and spaces. Now it seems to be more prevalent, many are denouncing anything that enlists minorities as a separate entity under the larger umbrella which they represent? Why?"

It's no longer about 'our own' it's about representation. Do these same opponents of Black-only events make the same argument about St. Patrick's day being only for the Irish, or any parade that celebrates a group of people who share a heritage and a pride about who they are? In nine months it'll be a new century. Are we to carry over the same tired prejudices, or are Black men finally going to take center stage and chart their own destiny without waiting for the approval of whites.

Send comments suggestions to writercain@aol.com

Thy Cup Runneth Over

International Mr. Leather '99

by Lynnell Stephani Long

Once again, it's time for the leather community to dust off the chaps, vest and boots, and head to the Congress Hotel for the 1999 IML Contest. Last year, for the first time ever, IML welcomed a Female-to-Male transexual contestant. Just goes to show when you get a bunch a people together with different kinks, there are no freaks.

If you are considering going to IML this year, then do it! Most of the parties surrounding IML are pansexual. Meaning even if you are a Black Intersex Leather Dyke like me, you can still attend. The leather market is great, bring lots of cash. The leather market is full of vendors from around the world. Even if you're a novice, there's something for everyone. If you do decide to attend IML this year, all you need to fit in is Levi's, a leather vest and leather boots. Gym shoes and leather do not go together, sorry.

Also, the notion that leather accompanies S/M is not true. You can be into leather without being into S/M. Not everyone likes to be pinched, paddled, pierced, tied down or strung up, just those of us that are kinky. The idea is to have fun. Whatever you do, don't forget to breathe.

Dawn of a New Woman

After two years of procrastination, and a crashed computer, I have finally finished my poetry book entitled, *Dawn of a New Woman*. It wasn't easy

going through every poem, prose and play I've ever written. I had to deal with the emotions that accompany each poem, each relationship and a lot of events that happened in my life. As I revised most of my writings, it was like revising my life. Constantly thinking about lost love and friends. It helped me to look at myself and see how much I've matured in the past three years. I realize one of the reasons I still write for BLACKLINES, after I considered quitting and living a normal life, is because I still remember what it felt like not to have a role model when I was young. It was a dreadful feeling to feel like no one in the world understood my gender dysphoria. Today, I am proud to see the many LesBiGayTrans role models there are for the younger generation. Maybe, just maybe, it will help them to realize they are not alone. It's important for me to remember that there must be a Trans/Intersex voice in BLACKLINES. No matter how bad "I" think my life may seem, life can be worse for a teenager.

Just for Today

I love this time of year when flowers are blooming, trees are beginning to sprout leaves and the grass is green again. The warm air creeps over and warms Chicago like a blanket. I open the windows in my apartment to allow the smell of spring to cleanse the rooms where I have hibernated this past winter. Seasons change, people change, and yet the smell of spring reminds me that

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What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Advice with an attitude!

The Body Beautiful

Spring is pouncing upon us! As the sun's rays shimmer warmly against our bodies and cool breezes foreshadow the upcoming summer festivities, the desire to shed pounds is brought forth. Seemingly overnight, the local bike pathways, gyms and even the Chicago Lakefront trailways undergo a drastic metamorphosis. Once again, these locales become swamped with body-conscious individuals ... until the bad snowy weather hits. Then, In a flash: SWOOP!! They were gone just like the New Year's resolutions and promises that were made in January. Question: Where were y'all hiding all winter? "GIRL, cold weather isn't chic nor cute!" remarked a young man to one of his friends at the gym. Yes, indeed readers, some of us have been hibernating all winter only to realize the snow is gone but the pounds are still there from Thanksgiving and Christmas Festivities!! In fact, new pounds may have even shown up to join in the party! "Why me?" some of us wonder. "I didn't eat that much over the holidays? What should I do? I don't have much time to commit to a daily work-out regime!"

Have you found yourself in this common predicament? Let's examine some possibilities. However, before we ponder exercise regimens, let's take a look inward at some of the reasons why you wish to work out in the first place. Could it be many of us feel working out can provide a healthier alternative for our hearts, minds and souls? Or, could it be that the American phenomenon proclaiming 'Thin is IN' or 'Masculinity means MUSCLES' has taken its toll on us? In addition, the latter ideology has had a tremendous trickle-down effect within the GLBT community to have that perfect body. After all, the media continues to saturate hungry images of lean muscular builds and/or flat, washboard abs. If you look around the community, these buff images permeate within all the magazines, television sets, our buildboards and maybe even our fantasies. Ultimately, the pressure to look a certain way can make us feel unattractive resulting into poor self esteem about our bodies. In my opinion, our bodies in all their various colors, shapes and sizes are beautiful. They are what make us unique individuals. So, if you like your size and shape, cool!

However, let me be clear: I'm certainly not anti-exercise. Actually, I'm saying quite the opposite. Your personal health should always be taken into consideration. Daily exercise can provide a healthy outlet for stress and hypertension reduction among other ailments. However, the way a person chooses to exercise is the key. Like many things in America, there are many quick schemes on the market that make false promises. Many of us can be lured into believing this is the way to get the perfect body more rapidly. After all, QUICKER IS BETTER, RIGHT? WRONG! Unfortunately, the exercise industry is a billion-dollar institution. It, too, feeds and festers due to naivete and continues to thrive because of this factor! Some products such as steroids, certain diet pills/protein drinks, and over using vitamins can be toxic to the body. If taken in excessive amounts for an extended timeframe, these products could have damaging physical side effects!

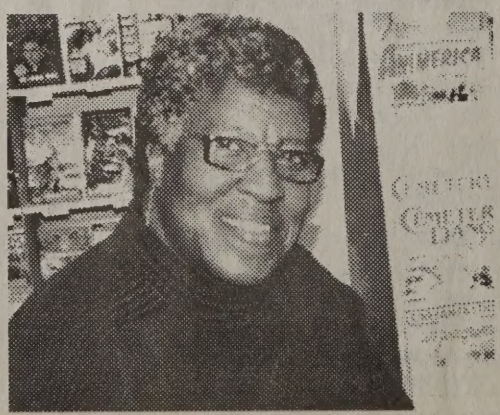
But, for those who are contemplating an exercise program, while a positive attitude is important, do your homework! It's always a good idea to have a complete physical with your physician. Discuss the possibility of a regular exercise program with him/her. After this process and everything checks out, you are ready to begin! If you can afford to, I highly recommend seeking a trainer at a gym. Many fitness centers have very good trainers that can teach you the ropes regarding cardiovascular and weight training regiments, as well as proper diet. It is a new way of life in terms of how you treat your body. The good news is YOU can accomplish this task in a healthy way!! More importantly, by having a trainer (at least in the beginning) you won't be fooled and lured into buying fly-by-night portions and drinks!!

In about ten weeks, you will begin to feel better and quite possibly begin to see results for yourself. But you have to commit to the necessary work it takes to whip yourselves back into shape!! You won't be sorry. I, too, workout on a consistent basis. However, I have been doing so for several years, supplement free! In addition, I have obtained other qualities through daily exercise such as more energy throughout the day, more vitality, and definitely more discipline.

After all, discipline is key to achieving the desired effects and goals. Those snow-filled wintry days have yet to stop me from exercising. You, too can accomplish beating the winter hulk by going to the gym in those months!! And finally, the discipline does transfer over into other areas of your life. Like everything else in life, if you invest the essential time in an exercise regimen, you will see that your investment will not only mature but you will feel great!! Take it from someone who knows.

Until the next time, your body beautiful awaits you but remember: TO THY OWN SELF BE TRUE! As always, Peace and Blessings, readers.

Comments? Questions? I eagerly want to hear from you. Send me an e-mail: PrestonMSW@aol.com.



Sci Fi writing

Ace sci-fi writer Octavia Butler signed copies of her works at Stars Our Destination in Chicago recently. Photo by Brian McGee

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HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR (PART-TIME) HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER, the Midwest's leading gay, lesbian, and bisexual health center, is seeking a Community Health Educator to provide health education and outreach services in the women's community, focusing on women who have sex with women. Req's: Minimum of two years experience working in the health and/or social services field. BA in health education or social services or equivalent experience. Strong written and verbal communication skills required. Demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse staff and client population. To apply: send resume to **C. Reid, Director of Human Resources, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613, e-mail: courtneyr@howardbrown.org or FAX (773) 388-8887.** No calls please. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. EOE. *(4/99)*

FAMILY MATTERS, an award-winning, life affirming, family and community focused organization, is seeking a Director for our teen girls program. We offer a positive and supportive work environment to someone with 3-5 years' experience working with teen girls and their families. Program seeks to address emotional, spiritual and physical health needs of participants and includes mentoring, policy and community service components. Salary is competitive and benefits are excellent. Please send resume to **Kim DeLong, Executive Director, 1512 W. Juneway Terrace, Chicago 60626 or fax resume to 773-338-6335.** *(4/99)*

DPG$_y$ Inc. & P.H.A.T. (Plenty of Hips Ass & Tits) are hiring. This Plus Size (& Medium Build) Bi-Sexual Female Erotic Dance Group needs topless waitresses & dancers. Serious only **1-800-997-0447.** High self-eseteem. (4/99)

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PHOTOGRAPHY

BAD, BOLD, AND BLACK: For sampler set (8 men, 8 photos), send age (21+), signature, $10, to Zebra Studios, P.O. Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (Potential models welcome!). *(2/00)*

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WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $24/12 issues (hdcpy only). Malebox2@aol.com

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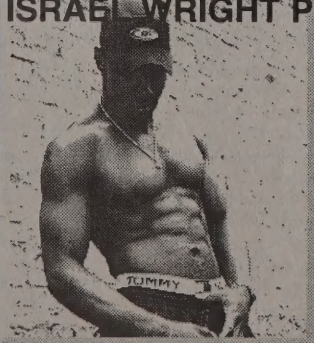

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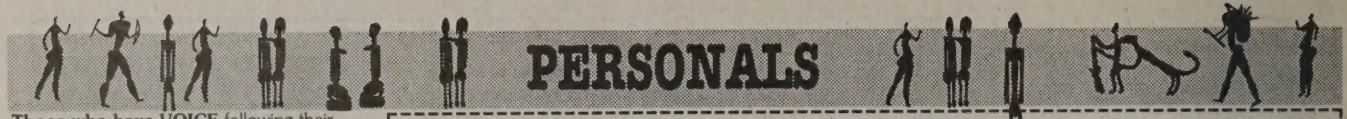

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101.

To keep your free voice box active continuously, you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.

WARNINGS: 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. **2.** Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

CODE: ISO = In Search Of

Men

Sex, romance, hot top 5'9", 155#, 25 y/o, Bi BM military discreet seeks slim/skinny bottom any race under 37 y/o Page **Leo (312) 216-9101** *(7)*

PGBM, 5'11", 185#, 48 y/o, HIV+, alcohol/drug/smoke free, bald, pierced ears, religious, uninhibited, ISO meaningful LTR, similar. **NL Box 423** *(7)*

I know you're out there. I'm looking to meet the most huge cummers in Chicago; it's my fetish. A plus for Blacks and Hispanics, especially Puerto Ricans. Me: Latino, very passionate, hairy. I won't disappoint you. **NL425**

Very attractive SGM, 38, successful, easy going, romantic and fun. Fuiero encontrar un hombre latino especial para una amistad o para una relación amorosa. Yo apreciariá una foto si es posible. Respond to **LPS, 6311 Fairview Ave., Suite 145, Westmont. IL. 60559** *(7)*

Dominant SBM NYC, mature honest, atheist, strict master, sane, friendly, seeks Black/Latina submissive female 24+ to serve me. NYC nearby. (No phonies, D/D, smokers.) Maids, rollerbladers welcome! Photo, phone. **NLBox 429** *(8)*

Bottom GBM lover wanted: GWM 48 (boyish looking), 5'10", 190#, seeks healthy younger bottom GBM 21-33 who's smooth and cut for long term relationship. Write Tom. **NL419** *(5)*

Transvestite queen, ISO friend, roommate, travel partner, horny, dominate no drugs/hangups, any age/color. Me: bottom only. **NLBox411** *(5)*

I'm looking for my fetish Iranian Pakistanian man, the most hairy. A plus for mustaches, hung, heavy cummers. I won't disappoint you. Me: Latino. **NL 409** *(5)*

GWM 50's ISO LTR with Caribbean male. Am HIV-, DDfree, NS. Prefer a loving top, am a loving bottom. **NL 383** *(5)*

Professional, adventurous romantic seeks LTR with 30-45 GM who enjoys spontaneous times and quiet romance at home. Me: GWM 37, brown/hazel, attractive, creative, likes to have fun. No smokers, drugs or barflys. **NL 401** *(5)*

Still looking for mature gentleman any race. HIV- regular sexual companionship, your place. Me: White bottom 5'8" no bullshit. **VM (773) 995-4091** *(5)*

Water sports bottom wanted by 55, 6', 165# top in good shape. Send phone, info and fantasies. **NL 299** *(5)*

Top handsome masculine 6", 178#, 51 y/o GBM seeks a goodlooking, well built, good natured, masculine, clean, submissive bottom, employed, trusting and quality GBM for a relationship. A social drinker OK, no drugs. No games please. **NLBox397** *(5)*

Hispanics, Blacks and Bears for SAFE encounters and friendship. A plus for heavy cummers. I'm Latino, passionate. I won't disappoint you. **NL381** *(5)*

Transgendering WM, 43, 5'7", 185#, ISO BM, 30+, for sincere, loving, long-term relationship. All serious replies will be answered! **Voice 52807** *(5)*

True love, romance, passion, friendship, endless kissing and more. Nice looking Latino 27, 6', 150#. Expecting to find love with black, tall skinny guy, I'm not asking for much. Just someone real. Let's give it a chance. **NL391** *(5)*

WOMEN

ISO = In Search Of

Don't get us wrong, we love our child... But are u tired of entertaining your kids? Guess what? We are too... Wanted: sisters with children for picnics, ball games and gettogethers. Please call us. We need friends who can relate. Signed, Stuck at Home with Kids **(312) 696-6784** *(7)*

Sexy, passionate femme who is new to the life. ISO studs who are 24 and up who are willing to show me the ropes. I can be reached at **(773) 201-8389.** I will respond to all calls. *(5)*

GWF, 29, intelligent, honest, attractive fit, laidback, eclectic tastes, ISO intelligent, attractive GW 28+ who demands honesty and integrity; values communication and intimacy and believes all relationship should foster happiness, sharing and growth. Let's enjoy life, each other, and have fun. **Voice52822** *(6)*

Do you read books? Well, join us for refreshment and book discussions. Any book from Seuss to Warhol. Let's get literate. Race, age or gender unimportant, but female couples are a plus. **Call (312) 696-6784.** *(6)*

We are a female couple with a daughter. We are seeking other parents with children for social gatherings. Race not important. Call **(312) 696-6784** *(6)*

Hey you! Yeah, I'm talking about you, sugar. If you're a loving Black "dark complexion" soft stud who is age 37-49, over 5'1", under 5'9", slim to medium build, independent, intelligent, single, drug, alcohol and disease free; let's talk. Oh, by the way, I'm an attractive, independent, intelligent, drug-, alcohol-, and smoke-free, 5'1", 188#, slightly past 48 year old SBF. Why don't you beep me? **773 849-0915** *(6)*

GHF single non-smoker, seeking special permanent relationship. Enjoy movies, dining out, dance, picnics, walks, quiet times, theatre, etc. etc. The affectionate and caring can write directly to **NL 216** (8/29)

SBM 39 5'11" 200# seeks female Bi, clean, attractive, pretty feet. Race open, 20-50, 130 -600#. **Voice 52809** *(6)*

Former punkette/artista, now 36, persnickety, routinized, lazy, anti-social, anti-consumerist crank (still kinda pretty) seeks empathetic perceiver: underlying logic/beauty residing biking distance/Lakeview. Physical preferences: fit, firm, no cat allergies. Curvaceousness A+. I'm 5'8", 151, buffed, vegetarian. Interests: arts, bicycling, kayaking, moderate partying, health, consciousness. **Voice 52818** *(6)*

Very attractive androgynous black lesbian ISO same for friendship and possibly more. Must be drug, alcohol, disease free, and single. Lt. smoker OK. Over 35, wt. proportioned to ht. Please no bi's, bi-curious or closet cases. Want to know more about me, give me a call. **Pager# (773) 226-1518** *(5)*

Fun-loving, clean, cute, spiritual, non-smoking, open, employed, and oral woman ISO the same in a femme. No Bi's please. 35 or younger. To receive me as your blessing from above, please dial **(773) 226-9045,** press 2, leave your name and number and/or press 1 and leave your number. *(5)*

Mix & Match

Swinging couples, single @ bi-curious females. Still searching four couple for erotic fun, you can stop looking now. You've thought about it, so let's do it. Race open. Call for hot times . You will not be sorry e-mail **Bud2225716aol.com** *(6)*

Personals

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- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, e-mail or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Classified rates ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	$_____

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

SANDERS from 28

else for four to six months and then get tested again and then we would do it. To my amazement, I said I would consider it. I love him and I thought this would be a way for us to share something with one another that I would never even consider sharing with anyone else. I also thought that I would learn what all the hype over unprotected sex was about. We took out time on a Saturday and went to get HIV tests. As I sat in the room getting my blood drawn, I knew this was crazy. I knew that I couldn't do this. As much as I loved him, and I was sure he loved me, this just didn't make sense.

I trusted him, and he trusted me, so what was stopping me? It was no longer the fear that had ensured my use of condoms before, it was something more. It was the reasoning behind the act. As much as we loved each other this was something that should be shared with a partner, if at all. I realized even the talk of having unprotected sex was a strong pull. When everyone around you tells you not to do it, it is the rebel in all of us that seems to push the desire. I still think it is irresponsible to make unsafe sex trendy. We have a responsibility to the younger generation. For adults it is a choice that we have to take of personal responsibility. If we choose to practice unsafe sex, then we can't expect others to be there to clean up the mess.

I wish I could say that I told my partner that I couldn't do it. I left it open for discussion in four months. So what is the message? I don't have one. I have just come to realize that the idea of unsafe sex is a strong draw. I still believe the idea of exchanging bodily fluids as a spiritual event is a load of crap. It's a draw that I understand, but I also know that if I make a mess, it's one I have to live with for the rest of my life.

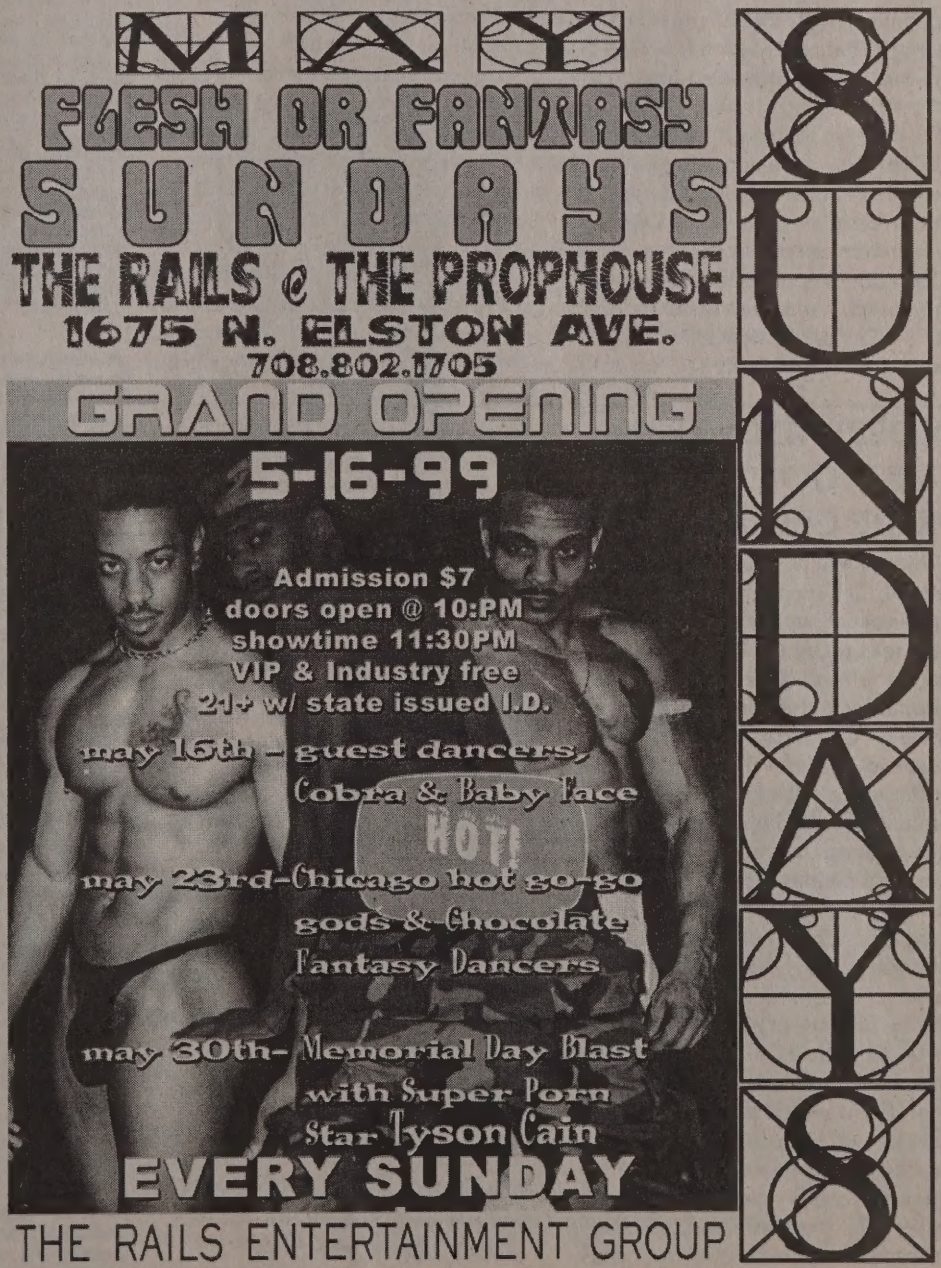
LYNNELL from 29

everything is as it is meant to be, anew. I'm not sure if I remember when the seasons changed last year. I remember being too busy for a walk on the lake, an ice cream cone or a bike ride. Just for today, I will remind myself to slow down and breathe. Nothing is more important than my own happiness. When I find life getting too stressful or people around me demanding too much from me, I will simply drop out of the race. Boundaries are very important to me today. If there is something I can't or choose not to do, then so be it. I will not allow others to determine my fate. I'm not giving up; I'm giving in. Giving in to the will of a power greater than me. I'm realizing that being Transgendered or Intersex is only a small part of who I am. Yes, I am Intersex, I am proud of it and will never deny it. But I am also a woman, and being a woman, to me, means being kind, gentle, loving, tolerant and patient with myself and others.

Lynnell Stephani is a Trans/Intersex Activist. members.aol.com/INTERSEXx. Or email TSReporter@aol.com.

SONS & DAUGHTERS

Become a part of the SONS & DAUGHTERS project and help change the face of American families on TV. Filming will take place in Spring, 1999. Call all 212-946-1033; sdproj@aol.com. Check out COLAGE.org/documentary



World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Hit List

Recently, the Chicago Police Department, criticized for limiting public access to its list of convicted sex offenders, decided to make that list available on the Internet. At the same time, Police Superintendent Terry Hillard announced a home-visitation program to ensure that offenders were truthful about their current residences.

The decision to make it easier for the public to view the names of registered sex offenders living in their neighborhoods came weeks after the issue was threatening to become a burden to Mayor Richard Daley. With the public able to view the information, it redefines the term "hit list." (A "hit" is registered any time someone visits a Web site.)

The move to make the list available also followed growing resentment between law enforcement and some Englewood residents. Englewood currently has more registered sex offenders than any other neighborhood and is still dealing with the aftermath of the Ryan Harris murder.

Hillard has said that the new program exceeded the guidelines of the state's sex-offender registration law which, in part, requires police agencies to make available to the public a printed list of the names and addresses of child molesters, rapists, and other offenders living nearby.

The Illinois Sex Offender Registration Act requires people convicted of sex crimes within the last 10 years to register with the police agency in their town and then re-register every year and every time they move. Violators can receive a jail sentence (from a week to a year) and a fine of at least $500.

The Chicago Police Department sex-offender list may be accessed directly on the Net at http://12.17.79.4 or at www.ci.chi.il.us./communitypolicing

▼▼▼▼▼

INDEPENDENCE '99: CHICAGO BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

Chicago will host its first Black Pride Festival, "Independence '99," July 1-5. This weekend will be an annual gathering celebrating the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bi- affectionate and Transgender community in the Windy City. The theme is "Coming2GetherAs1." Independence '99 will feature activities for the entire Black LesBiGayTrans community including performances, cultural events, seminars and a picnic. Evening activities include parties by various social groups and bars/clubs.

The official host hotel is the Hyatt University Village, 625 S. Ashland. Reservations can be made at 312-243-7200 or Toll Free at 800-233-1234, ask for the Chocolate City rate. The Pride Committee Info desk will be at the hotel. The weekend activities at the hotel kick off with cultural performances July 1, followed by the Opening Reception and Kickoff Party Friday, July 2, continuing July 3 with seminars on topics ranging from spirituality, sexuality, personal finance, health/wellness, a media reception, relationships, politics for men, women and youth. One of the highlights of the weekend will be the Independence '99 Festival Picnic on Lake Michigan (Wellington Clock Tower at Irving Park Road & North Lake Shore Drive) on Sunday, July 4 with food, entertainment, recreation, music and dancing for all. All official events are free. Bus Tours are already planned from D.C. and Detroit. Call 773-288-2078 ; chicagoblackpride@yahoo.com or www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Café/2381/.

Hotter Than July! 1999 event

Many have come and gone, but KICK MAGAZINE has stood the test of time. Founded in 1994 by publisher Curtis Lipscomb, KICK has established itself as a mainstay in the gay community. The Detroit-based publication will take time out during this year's 4th-annual Hotter Than July!, Detroit's Gay Pride Celebration, to commemorate the occasion of their five-year anniversary. The celebration will kick off July 23.

E-mail KickPuCo@aol.com

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs.....312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W,D,V.....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D,
1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-395-8660
K.C. Productions at Cotton Club, Sundays.....312-341-9787
1710 S. Michigan, open til 4 a.m., shows
THE RAILS AT PROP HOUSE, 1675 N. Elston, FRIDAYS
MW,D, TheRails@aol.com.....708-802-1705
THE VIX: A Jazz Supperclub, 2814 N. Halsted
MW,D,R,GS 773-529-3999

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R.....773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark 773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun. ..312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4 773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D 773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 312-409-0276
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V.....773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D 773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat)..... ...847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649.....312-409-7609
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573 773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans Performers
www.uic.edu/orgs/areairead.....312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
outlines@suba.com http://www.suba.com/~outlines/
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com
P.O. Box 496024. Chicago 60649
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network)
Programming 773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent...773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181.....312-409-4917
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band 773-434-6099
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 ..773-778-3030
Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent ..773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen 708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men....773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery 773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies.....312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago,PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum.....202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians
of African Descent, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Phrasority *parties for all lesbians and gays*.....312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital.....773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649.....773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support ..773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois.....847-625-7263
TransGenesis trans support.....312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839

THE LITTLE THINGS

by Dailyn Wilson

I love my woman 'cause her beautiful hair is long ...
or short
It's the way she elegantly throws it back
or how she respectfully wears her hat

I love my woman 'cause the way she says *I love you*
or the way she shows it
"I love you baby" or when she gently rubs my feet
That's the way we grow, that's how she loves me

I love my woman 'cause she holds me close even
When she don't want none
And it's the little things like that
that make me want to give her some

I love my woman 'cause when I'm feeling down
She gives me words of encouragement
"Baby you can do anything you wanna do"
she tells
me and that's what helps me make it
through

'Meta' by Juarez Hawkins

I love my woman 'cause when she walks
by,
Looking so sexy, and knows I'm watching,
she'll put
in the extra switch and booty shake for me
Because she knows though I hate to see
her go,
I love to watch her leave

I love my woman 'cause when I f*** up royally and
sincerely didn't mean it
I don't run the risk of losing her
because she loves me unconditionally
She's gonna stand by me

I love my woman 'cause when we go out to eat
She doesn't mind sharing her food with me
We dip from the same sauce and eat from the same
tender piece of meat

I love my woman 'cause when we're making
passionate love
The sounds of ecstasy she makes with me
indicates to me that I'm doin' it her way
Doin' the right things to make her scream and show
me how very much she appreciates

All the things my woman does makes up
what we share
The love we share, those little things help put it there
The little things are why we're able to say
Lovely things at the end of a rainbow day.

Metra

Written about a beautiful woman that sat across from me on the Metra

by Donnyea Stokes

Brown hair long and flowing
Eyes of almond
but filled with anger and attitude
Crows' feet between her eyes
Jagged nails
Breathing hard
Sitting across from me
Wondering what passes through her mind
What stops her time
What is she wondering of
Making a hard decision
Lips are covered in petroleum jelly
The shine is never ending
Strawberry cheeks ride along her cheekbones
However, the sex appeal in her
Legs never stop.
Crossed to perfection
She stands to sit by me
My mind wonders
Closing my eyes I can feel her heart
Echoing through my body.
Losing myself in her
As her fur brushes against my leg
My body feels connected to her every move.
Street signs pass
And so do our eyes
Locking into intense wonder
And so do our lips
Our imagination begins to stray
Away from constant reality
Imagination which only had us in mind
As I felt her delicate lips touch mine
She put her hand on my breast and I began to
squeeze my legs
feeling my moist insides.
I had come to realize that
I'd visited love for the first time in my imagination

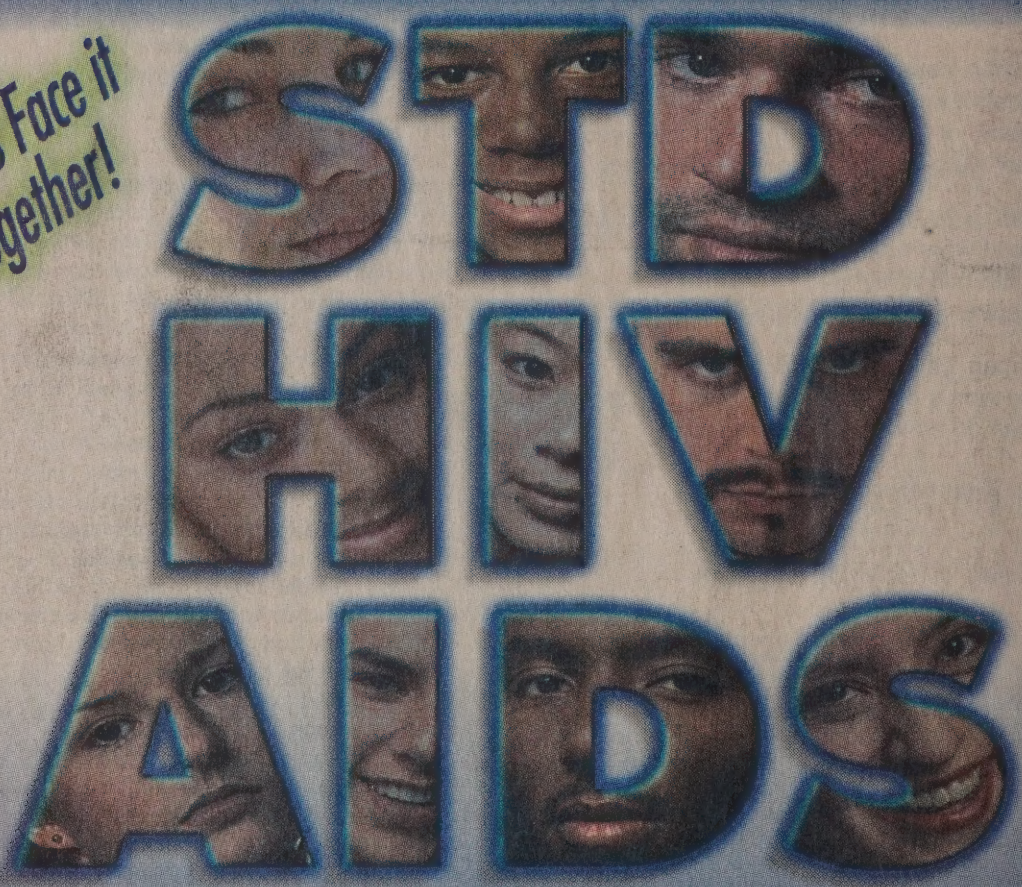
INVISIBILITY

by Donnyea Stokes

Surrounds my mind
Stops the hands of time
Invisibility wraps its arms around me
The only thing I can see
Which divides me
The only thing that drowns me
To see it would be to see me
That's why I stay a mystery
To know why I stop and stare
To know my evil glare
I wish someone else could stop
And see why this invisibility takes over me.

Latex condoms with water-based lubricants help stop the spread of STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS

Let's Face it Together!



Call your nearby Chicago Department of Public Health Clinic about

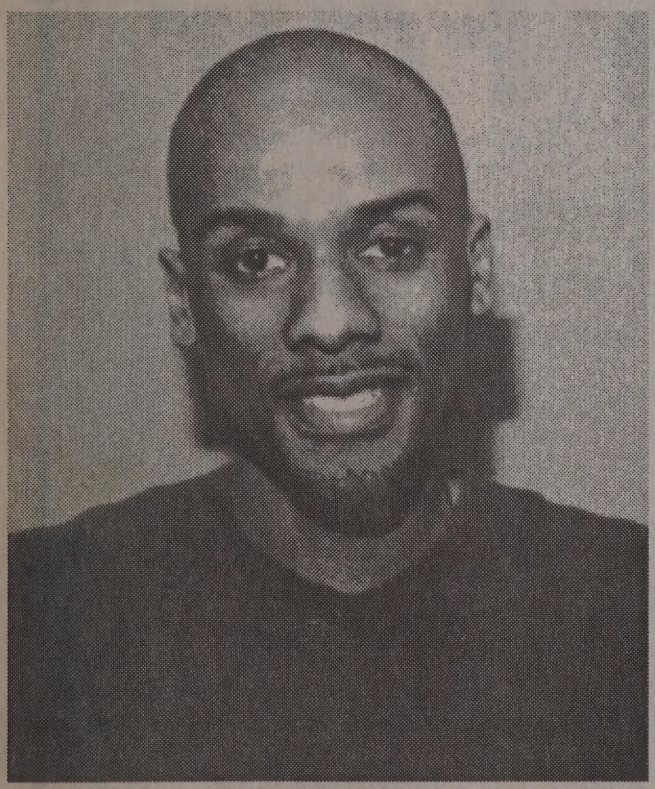
FREE COUNSELING, TESTING, TREATMENT, REFERRALS, PREVENTION PLANS, MALE AND FEMALE CONDOMS

1-800-AID-AIDS

STATE OF ILLINOIS AIDS HIV & STD HOTLINE. TDD: 1-800-782-0423
CITY OF CHICAGO, RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR

BLACK LINES

June 1999, Vol. 4, No. 5 Free/$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE



reflections

Keith Boykin is on a spiritual quest for Black lesbigays. His new book has gone into a second printing.

See page 10

Photo by Patrick Robinson

youthspeak

Mercedes is a trans youth at DuSable breaking down the barriers

See page 28

Photo by Lynnell Stephani

Published by Lambda Publications, publishers of OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, EN LA VIDA, OUT! GUIDE, CLOUT! AND TASTE

You can view BLACKLINES on the Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

Grand Opening
Health Fair

Saturday, June 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Harambee Wellness Center • 1515 East 52nd Place

Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood (adjacent to Harper Court)

Free Services

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- Chiropractic Assessments
- Cholesterol Screenings
- Glucose Screenings
- HIV Testing & Counseling
- Massage Therapy
- Nutrition Counseling
- Osteoporosis Education

Please call for information, **773.752.7867**

HARAMBEE WELLNESS CENTER
of Howard Brown Health Center

This ad was made possible by a grant from DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company, a division of DuPont Life Science Enterprises and through Illinois General Revenue funding administered by the Office of Women's Health, Illinois Department of Public Health.

BLACK LINES

June 1999
Volume 4, Number 5

BLACK*lines* Staff:

Managing Coordinator
La Jaunessee Jordan

Senior News Reporter
Robert Schultz

Photography Israel Wright, Lynnell S. Long, Rosalind Glanton

Art/Design:
Otis Richardson, Elandria Henderson, Rodney Moore

Editorial Contributors:
Vicky Nabors, Janice Layne, Harry Tyner, Andrew Davis, Jon Dallas, Lynnell S. Long, Cain Berlinger, Kathleen Rose Winter, Preston Schumaker, Lester Davis, Shamara Riley, Jean Pierre Campbell, C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Charles Clifton, Dwayne Sanders, Vernita Gray, Rhonda Mundhank, J., Samantha Mattox, Byron Stewart, Sherri Jackson, Donna Rose, Patricia Mickey, Leslie D. McClellan.

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Lambda Publications Staff:
PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Terri S. Klinsky, Kathleen Ulm
Israel Wright, Daniel Finley, Robert Schultz

Editorial: D. Jean Albright

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: **outlines@suba.com**

World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/
LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D,
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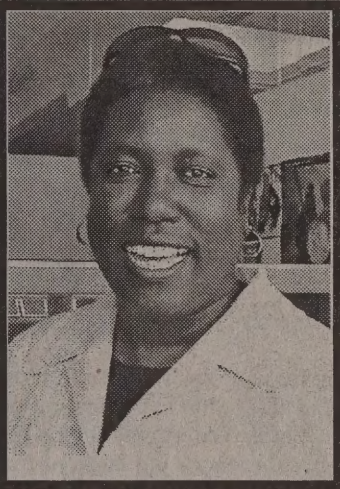

TOP: April Sinclair is profiled on page 20, and discusses her new book—and film offers. Photo by Tracy Baim. BELOW: Byron Stewart camps it up for A Real Read and Bailiwick in a pride series play. See page 11.

BLACKlines
is on the World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

Cover photo of Barbara Smith by Clint Steib, THE WASHINGTON BLADE.

BLACKlines
DEADLINE is the 5th of each month for articles, calendar, photos, art, poetry, viewpoints, etc. Material used on a space-available basis.

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- O $12 for one year **BLACK*lines***
- O $69 one year **BLACK*lines*** & **OUTLINES**
- O $59 for one year **OUTLINES**
- O $79 for one year **OUTLINES & NIGHTLINES**
- O $10 for one year **EN LA VIDA**
- O $3 for one copy of the OUT! RESOURCE GUIDE
- O Send me advertising information on your products.

Name: _____

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BLACKlines/Outlines,
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657.

Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

Pride, Pride bo bide banana fanna fo fide.
Are you out or on a banana peel trying to hide?
Have a seat. Relax. Lend me your ear a while.
Welcome to Pride '99 La Jaunessee style.
I was strolling through the last year and savoring the fun.
Although the events of life have kept me on the run.
I'm now able to attend Affinity's 40 Plus group.
It ain't your grandmother's old fashioned chicken soup.
I was big briggette as C.C. brought to life *the bull-jean stories.*
With our cast and crew, sharon bridgforth had no worries.
I accepted Chicago Assn. of Black Journalists award to a gay brother.
Sanford Gaylord then, from GCC, accepted another.
I met *The Truth That Never Hurts* author here in the city.
Besides being an activist, writer and BLACKLINES friend, Barbara Smith is pretty.
Jamoceo & John brought Black lesbian comic Karen Williams our way.
She helped us remember but forget racism & homophobia & helped us survive the day.
I did poetry here, comedy there, and speaking at this or that event.
Marjorie Hill returned our way. Of course she was heaven sent.
I attended the LCCP cruise and Coming Out Against Cancer.
Lesbian Community Cancer Project for many womyn has been the answer.
If you helped with our Adopt A Family you should be glowing with pride.
Your hard work and contributions should add a little strut to your stride.
A Real Read was featured on *In The Life* —national t.v.
Many of them are associated with BLACKLINES, you see.
The whisperer and Englishman from abroad brought us Black Pearls.
Sukie de la Croix tells our history from the fellas and the girls.
Womyn of all Colors/Cultures Together turned five this year.
There you can fill your stomach, share your self and be you without fear.
The Womon of the Decade, Jackie Anderson is the best,
If she gathered everyone she knows, it would be a womyn's fest.
Chris Smith worked hard to put Affinity on the map.
They bring literary programs, events and groups where you can rap.
Renae Ogletree—what a womon! What a name!
I hope about me, she says the same.
I live the life I love and love the life I live.
I work at making people's lives a little better. I try to give.
Let's laugh, live, learn, since another year has come our way.
Although no iambic pentameter, hope you appreciate what I say.

Harambee Wellness Center's 'Pride' in Hyde Park

Howard Brown Health Center's new Harambee Wellness Center will celebrate gay and lesbian pride month with a grand opening party and health fair. The festivities will be Saturday, June 5, 1515 East 52nd Place in Hyde Park. The fair is free and open to the public.

At 11 a.m., Mary Morten, Mayor Daley's liaison to the lesbigay community, will cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening. From 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the center will offer free health screenings, including blood pressure, hemoglobin, blood sugar, cholesterol, and anonymous HIV testing, and health education for osteoporosis, domestic violence and HIV/STD and cancer. Call (773) 752-7867.

It happens in ***Our Community***, too.

Support Group for lesbians who experience **abuse** from their partners.

Call Daphne at the Women's Program: **773/847-4417**

TIA/CHICAGO CONNECTIONS
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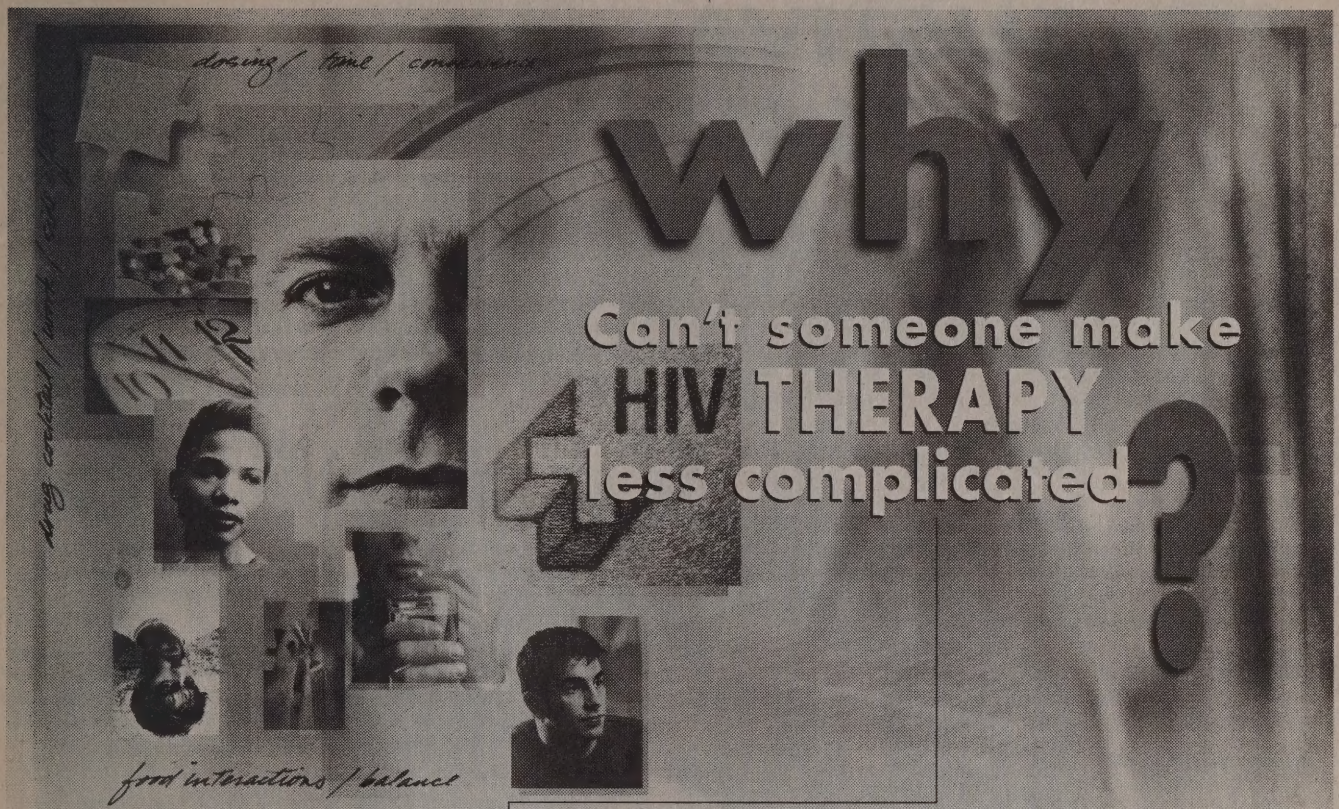
Rev. Monroe on 'In The Life'

Rev. Irene Monroe, one of America's most outspoken African-American lesbians, is interviewed for the June Pride edition of the nationally syndicated lesbigay TV show ***In The Life.*** The program airs on Chicago's WTTW-Channel 11 Wed., June 16, 11 p.m., (773) 583-5000. The show also looks at the life of Judy Garland and how she influenced the modern gay-rights movement.

Rev. Monroe



Once Daily
SUSTIVA™
efavirenz

SUSTIVA™ is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy. Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

Now listed among preferred anti-HIV drugs in government guidelines.[1]

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at http://www.sustiva.com
For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at http://www.hivatis.org

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

FOR HIV

Finally, a once daily medication to treat HIV.

SUSTIVA. It's about time.

www.sustiva.com

1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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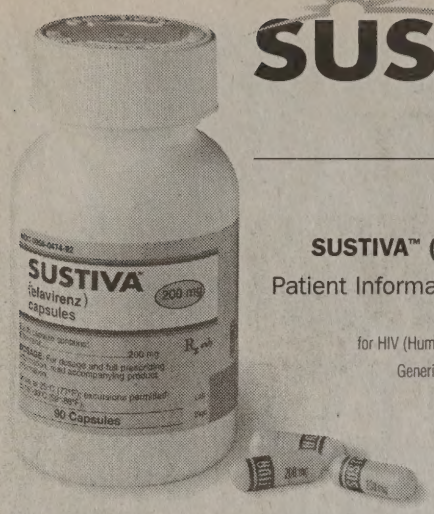
DUPONT DuPont Pharmaceuticals

Once Daily

SUSTIVA™

efavirenz



SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules

Patient Information about SUSTIVA*

(sus-TEE-vah)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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DuPont Pharmaceuticals
Wilmington, DE 19880
Issued September, 1998

AFFINITY

Celebrate Pride Month!

Celebrate Black Pride in July!

(photo by Rosalind Glanton)

Affinity, working hard for the Community

Thursday, June 3rd: Healthy Woman Nite – :Cooking for your Health" with Kyle Wade - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 10th: Lez Chat – "Coming out to your Parents" with Kim Campbell of PFLAG - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday June 19th: 40 Plus "Open House" – Women of all ages welcomed 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, TAE BO with C.C. Carter 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. (call for fee info etc...)

All events located in the First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park unless otherwise noted at Affinity
5650 S. Woodlawn (garden level)
Voice mail (312) 409-7609

HIGH COURT JUDGE SAYS HE HAS AIDS

Openly gay South African High Court Judge Edwin Cameron revealed April 20 that he has AIDS.

He made the statement in an application for a seat on the nation's highest court, the Constitutional Court.

"I am living with AIDS," Cameron, 46, said. "The choice to speak is available to me ... because I have a job position that is secure; because I am surrounded by loved ones, friends and colleagues who support me; and because I have access to medical care. For millions of South Africans living with HIV or AIDS these conditions do not exist. They have no jobs, or their jobs would be at risk if they spoke about their HIV. They not only lack community support, but face grave personal danger if they do so."

One-eighth of South Africa's 3.6 million residents is HIV- positive and 1,500 people are newly infected each day, government researchers have said.

—Rex Wockner

NAMIBIAN OFFICIAL SEEKS TO BAN GAY SEX

Namibia's deputy home affairs minister, Jeremiah Nambinga, is seeking to criminalize gay sex because he believes it's evil.

Nambinga made his suggestion April 19 during a budget debate in the National Assembly.

"Homosexuality is evil, homosexuality is anti-social and should not only be condemned but should also be legislated against," Nambinga said. "Homosexuals are patients of psychological and biological deviations."

Last November, Home Affairs Minister Jerry Ekandjo told parliament: "Gay rights can never qualify as human rights. ... They should be classified as human wrongs which must rank as sin against society and God. I earnestly call upon homosexuals in Namibia to repent their wrongs before society. I call upon them to repent their sins before God. This is the only way Namibia can develop as a people which considers certain values as fundamental to the welfare and survival of the nation."

Namibian President Sam Nujoma has said: "Homosexuals must be condemned and rejected in our society. All necessary steps must be taken to combat all influences that are influencing us and our children in a negative way."

—Rex Wockner

TUTU HONORED BY HRC/ATLANTA

"When I stand up and say that I want to oppose—discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation, it is not because I want to seem nice. It is because if I don't, everything I have done in my life will be in vain," Archbishop Desmond Tutu told an audience of more than 1,250 attending the Human Rights Campaign's 12th Atlanta black-tie dinner in early May, reports the SOUTHERN VOICE.

A native of South Africa, Tutu dedicated his life to ending apartheid and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. In 1996, he became the highest-ranking Anglican church official to call for the ordination of gays, and he has called on world leaders to end discrimination against lesbians and gay men, the VOICE said. U.S. Reps. John Lewis and Cynthia McKinney were honorary event co-chairs.

"Under apartheid, we were being discriminated against for something which we can't do anything about, women were being discriminated against because of their gender, and for me, it was a question of justice—that if I opposed apartheid as a matter of justice, then I would oppose discrimination against women as a matter of justice, and I would oppose discrimination on the question of sexual orientation. And that seems consistent. It would be the same if we shut up when there is discrimination against people with disabilities. For me, it is a seamless rope," Tutu said.

Gays at Mumia protest in Philly

On April 24, thousands of people from around the country—including many gays and lesbians —travelled to Philadelphia to demand a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Death Row inmate "who has become an international cause celebre since his 1982 conviction for killing a police officer," says Salim Muwakkil in a CHICAGO TRIBUNE commentary April 12. "Abu-Jamal claims he's innocent and criminal justice officials scoff at those claims. Many of the protesters also believe he's innocent, and even those who aren't so sure believe he deserves a new trial."

AIDS Activists arrested for protest

Twenty-one AIDS activists demanding access to AIDS drugs in Africa were arrested last month in D.C. after blocking the doors to the building housing the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, a lobby group for the brand-name drug industry. The protest followed a rally and march of 1,000 people from all over the East Coast supporting passage of the H.O.P.E. for Africa Act, sponsored by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.). Among other provisions, the bill would stop Administration interference with African countries' manufacture of cheap generic versions of essential medicines and ease Africa's crushing debt burden that drains funds from health care.

Less than two weeks later, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company announced it has committed $100 million over five years to improve the state of HIV/AIDS research and community outreach in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Oakland Black pride

The Oakland, Calif., OBGLT People In Pride Celebration is June 18-20, and there's also a Black GLBT celebration in San Francisco Oct. 8-10. Both weekends will feature extensive contributions by Black lesbigaytrans literary folks.

Call (415) 922-2916, e-mail peopleinpride@hotmail.com

LETTERS

Hi my name is Jasmine Crossley I am a 25-year-old Black lesbian from the South Side of Chicago. I just wanted to inform your magazines that I and my girlfriend Nicole won second place in CURVE's lesbian photo contest this year. I wanted to mention that we were the only Black winners and that bothers me. I feel that I am a triple minority because I am Black, female, and gay and I like to make myself known in whatever way I can. I am proud to be a lesbian and I feel that other lesbians should also be proud and get themselves involved in any way they can. ... I read the article How I See It in BLACKLINES and I am also a femme lesbian and damn proud of it. So please help me make other Black lesbians in Chicago see that our vote, thought, and participation counts.

Sincerely,
Jasmine Crossley

Thank you for your extraordinary work! the April issue was superb. I think that it played an important part in getting such a significant turn-out for the [CBLG] Unity conference. I was wondering if in your next issue you could include an addendum that would state: "cover photo of Dr. Elias Farajaje'-Jones by Becky Leyser," since that did not appear in the April issue. She is my colleague here in Berkeley and it would be very important and helpful for her portfolio as a photographer to be able to point to a prominent publication such as BLACKLINES where a photograph of hers appeared on the cover! We give thanks to the ancestors for the gift of kuumba and I thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

yours in the revolution,
prof. dr. elias farajaje'-jones

1st BLACK PRIDE

JULY 1 - 5, 1999

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INDEPENDENCE 99

A celebration of the Black LesBiGay Trans Life in Chicago, the Windy City

Nights of Cultural Performances
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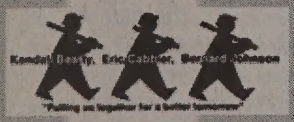
"The Red, White & Blue Jam"
Independence '99 Community Festival
Health & Pride Institutes
Prayer Breakfast
Various Parties
for Men, Women & Youth
Various Dance Club Events
Hotel Hospitality/Information
The Taste of Chicago Food Festival
Fireworks over Lake Michigan



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COMING SOON

SOUL REFLECTIONS: Speaking with Keith Boykin

by Bob Roehr

His office is now a room at home, not the corridors of the White House where he once was a press aide, or the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum where he served as executive director, but Keith Boykin is more than happy with the transition.

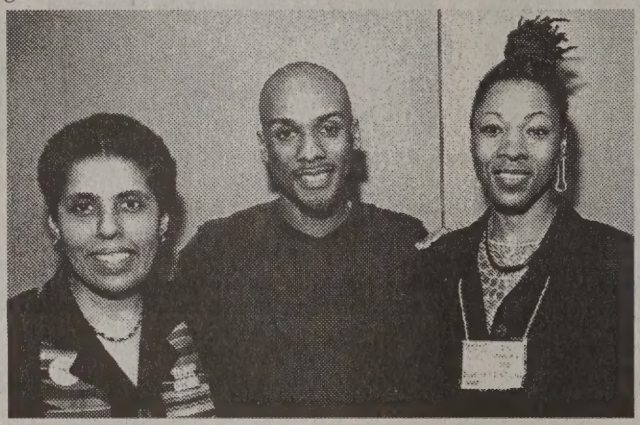
The pace is no slower, filled with writing, phone calls, and a book tour to promote *Respecting the Soul*. He's sometimes frustrated that friends who call in the middle of the day don't understand his need to get back to work, or when that work stretches long into the night.

BLACKLINES sat down with Boykin to talk of *Respecting the Soul*, his selection of quotations by leading African-Americans and his ruminations on life framed as daily reflections.

BR: How and why did you decide to write *Respecting the Soul?*

KB: It literally started on the book tour for *One More River to Cross*. I'm a very politically minded person. After working in the White House, the first book was really more legal, political, and academic, because my experience was legal, political, and academic at the time. At some point when I was touring, I realized even though people could appreciate what I was saying, there were some parts they appreciated more about the book, particularly African-Americans. Like the section about religion and faith and also my own coming-out story. What really resonated with people were the personal issues.

It became very clear to me, especially with the African-American LGBT community, that the interest was really about the personal and not the political. It was something that came home to me more and more as I worked with the Leadership Forum. So many people are just dealing with the day-to-day issues, the bread-and-butter issues, the personal life issues, particularly spirituality issues. I really needed to get in touch with what that was all about. Plus, I was going through my own personal spiritual development at the time. I started reading a lot about spirituality and personal growth.



Boykin with Barbara Smith (left) and Dr. Marjorie Hill at the Chicago Black Lesbian and Gay Unity Conference in April. Photo by Patrick Robinson

BR: That theme seems to be more prominent in the book than before. Is it in your personal life?

KB: Definitely. My views have evolved about so many things. I've always been on a quest to sort of figure out the meaning of life, the deep philosophical questions. I've gotten to a point now where I think I understand it for me. For me, it's all about love. The whole juxtaposition that some modern day philosophers have talked about between fear and love. I have discovered that all of the problems I've had in my life, all of the difficulties I've had to overcome, and struggles I've experienced, have been the direct result of my own fears.

All of the blessings that have come to me, and all of the good things that have been bestowed upon me have been because of love. Love for myself, love for others, love for my community. It seems trite but it became so clear when I finally sat down and focused on that. Coming out is the classic example of fear. Even working with the Leadership Forum, one of the biggest learning processes I had in the beginning was about asking people for money. I hated it. I had this sort of fear of doing it. What are they going to think? They're not going to like me, or they're not going to have it. It was like asking someone to dance.

BR: ... fear of rejection.

KB: Exactly. And it takes a while to get over that. But I believe now that if you do something that your heart is really into, the fear doesn't matter any more. It's not that it completely disappears, but you realize that getting this message out is so much more important than the fear.

BR: This is not the type of book that you just whip right through.

KB: The idea was to get people to think about what is on the page. The reason why I didn't call it a book of daily affirmations is that I didn't want everybody to feel good everyday, oh how wonderful. I didn't want people to feel that "Oh, I'm a wonderful person, I can do anything." Sure you can feel that way, but I really wanted people to think after each day or each couple of days that are packaged together, to really think about what is being said.

BR: So how did you go about gathering them?

KB: When I first came up with the proposal for doing this book, I thought it wasn't going to be too difficult. I thought, I know hundreds of Black gays and lesbians, and African-Americans. I started looking everywhere. There was a lot of information about a lot of people and very little information about some people. Some who I wanted to mention, I couldn't find any quotes from them. And time pressure eventually got to the point where I couldn't get everybody in that I wanted to include.

BR: Did you end up matching certain people with certain days?

KB: I did. Some were obvious, Dr. Martin Luther King on his birthday. I specifically put James Baldwin at the end of the book and at the end of the year because I really wanted to have a quote from him about: "You have to go the way your blood beats, you have to live the only life you have or else you'll never live any life at all."

I thought that was the way to conclude the year on a positive note. The last month of the year is about serenity.

I wanted to have Audre Lorde in the beginning of September. Her statement about courage, I think, is so profound. She said, "When I dare to be powerful—to use my strength in the service of my vision—then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

The Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. The Board of Education* was in May 1954. I put Thurgood Marshall on that day. Nelson Mandela, that goes on the day of his inauguration.

BR: Who did you put on your birthday?

Turn to page 24

ArtsExpress

***** Gay/les/bi/queer/trans content or interest*

Theatre

Previews/Opening Nights

**** ***May 26:*** **First Breath About Face Youth Theater** selected scenes from works in progress, guests include Michael Leppen underwriter of the Youth Thtre Challenge Grant, staff from the national gay and lesbian television newsmagazine In the Life, 7pm. 773 549-7943 x 8.

**** ***May 27:*** **Just Say No** With Larry Kramer in residence, and Olympian Greg Louganis making his Chicago acting debut, Bailiwick's Pride '99 is a summer of new works on the great complexities of the gay and lesbian community. Summer-long series includes a world premiere musical, one American premiere, two regional premieres, "'NEA Four" performance artist Tim Miller, and the highly anticipated revised version of **Just Say No,** a look at the Reagan era, now a classic bedroom farce. Inspired by a real video of sex among Reagan's kitchen cabinet which went public but then disappeared. Stars Marc Silvia, Alexandra Billings, Louganis, David Mersault, Amy Farrington, Nathan Rankin, Benjamin Sprunger, Alison Halstead. Tonight benefits Gerber-Hart Library, one of Bailiwick's nonprofit partners for Pride '99. Thru July 4. 773 883-1090

May 30 : **State of Emergency** 1935 Kenya when rebels are killing white farmers to cleanse highlands, teenage girl caught in conflict made acute by her father's new marriage to a white Kenyan women. Part of Women at the Door VI series, Theatre Building, 773 784-8347

**** ***June 2:*** **Annie Sprinkle's Herstory of of Porn: Reel to Real** Sprinkle takes you to seven movie theatres where she interacts with clips from some of her 200 movies over the past quarter of a century. Ends with the newest: *Teenage Mermaid Fantasea,* interactive art porn instructing audience in making their own sex movies. She has explored sexuality in it's most glorious and inglorious forms; is a sex-work pioneer, an AIDS educator, a sex positive feminist, an out 'metamorphosexual.' Special show for women and men dressed as women June 3. Show runs thru June 5. Prop Th 773 486-7767

**** ***June 2:*** **Conversations With a Diva** by Playwright Dr. Shirlene Homes. Johnathan Wilson directs Jeff Citation award winner Byron Stewart in one-man dish and dirt. Sassy, tough, triumphant story of self-appointed Sir Damone and his journey from sissy to proud black gay man. Thru July 4 Real Read Chicago African-American Lesbigaytrans Performance Ensemble, Bailiwick Art Center, Pride '99. (773) 883-1090

June 4: **Clarence Darrow** Joel Daly of WLS-TV portrays the controversial, legendary Chicago lawyer. Thru June 13, Studio of the Chicago Cultural Center 312 742-1079

**** ***June 4:*** **Winter** by lesbian writer Claudia Allen, her newest play, is a funny, heartwarming story about two elderly people who are reunited in life, and together learn to embrace their final years. Victory Gardens thru July 18. 773 871-3000.

**** ***June 10:*** **Breath** Gay and lesbian vignettes: executive meets The Goddess in a sales meeting: young girl dreams of the woman she will marry; priest seeks healing; old man and woman sit enjoying friendship; young man strives to reach the father who has left him; grandmother watches her grandson's gay poetry slam. Previews thru June 12, opens June 13, runs thru July 18. Part of Pride '99. Bailiwick 773 883-1090

**** ***June 12:*** **Adventures in Genderland** It's Time Illinois' 2nd Annual Celebration of Transgender Pride, Fantasy Evening of Dining, Dance and Entertainment with an original theatrical production by Lynnell Stephanie Long, music and dancing with Valerie James, and special guests. Ann Sather's 708 535-1506

**** ***June 18:*** **Self Help or the Tower of Psychobabble** a dating comedy lampoons contemporary life with its self-conscious insecurities, ruthless completion. Struggling screenwriter breaks up with unfaithful actor, looks for reconciliation through counseling. Is it possible to find love, or get some help, or at least get someone to listen for a few moments? Bailiwick thru July 19. Pride series. 773 883-1090

In Performance

The Adventures of Connie Chancla, multi-media performance commemorating 150th anniversary of Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Bario Historian Connie Chancla looks at the border, cross-cultural, gender issues, stereotypes, thru multi-lingual humor, performance, music, with comedy and cello. One woman show showcases multi-disciplinary scholarship while keeping audiences laughing. Thru May 29, 7pm. 312 738-1503

Are you now or have you ever been...? adapted from transcripts of the House Un-American Activities Committee hearings on communism in show business from 1946-56, painful history of Blacklist's victims, those who named names. Thru June 5 Next Th Co 847-475-1875

**** **Don't Ask...Don't Teletubby,** from creators of critically acclaimed "Everyone's Coming Out, Rosie!" and "Whitney Houston, We Have a Problem!" from GayCo Productions. Donny's Skybox Theatre 312-337-3992

Ev'ry Time I feel the Spirit by David Barr Staged reading, discussion. First African American singer to appear at the Metropolitan Opera, in 1939 acclaimed contralto Marian Anderson was a national symbol of Civil Rights when she was denied the right to sing in Constitutional Hall because of her race, Chicago Dramatists 312 633-0630

Homeless Deeply funny, ultimately sad story of three people's separate struggles to amicably survive together in the same place. Part of Women at the Door VI series, theatre Building, 773 784-8347

**** **Joan Crawford Goes to Hell** Inspired by the movie Mommie Dearest, the book My Way of Life by Joan Crawford, classic Crawford film moments, this original production looks at the line between Joan's real life and movies. Sweetcorn Playhouse 5113 N Clark extended thru June 25. 312 409-3925

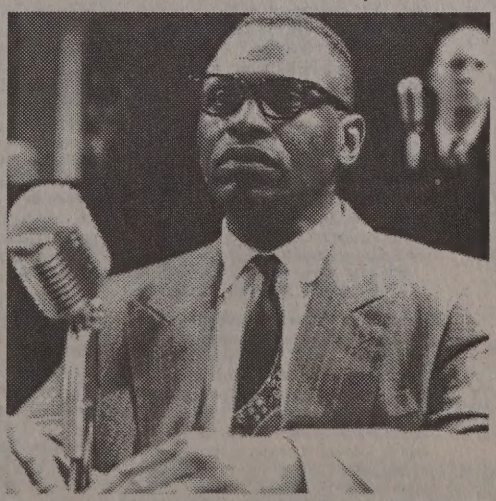
**** **La Cage Aux Folles** Gender bending romantic musical-comedy, music, lyrics, like "I Am What I Am," by Jerry Herman, thru June 6, Drury Lane Th, 708 422-0404

Mahalia moving musical on the life of musical great Mahalia Jackson, features her greatest hits. Part of Paul Robeson Th Series, South Shore Cultural Center. Free preview. So. Shore Cultural Center. 312 747-2936

Ragtime The Musical American cultural, political, economic evolution from the beginning of 20th century to advent of WWI. Starring Grammy-Award-winning singer/actress Stephanie Mills, Broadway/TV/movie star John Davidson. Thru June 13, Ford Center, 312 902-1400

**** **Raised by Lesbians** by Leah Ryan, picture Ed Wood meets Holden Caulfield at The Mall, where no peer-fearing 16 year-old wants to be seem with his parents, lesbians or not. Part of Women at the Door VI series, Theatre Building, 773-784-8347

A Real Read and Bailiwick present 'Conversation With A Diva,' by Dr. Shirlene Holmes, directed by Johnathan Wilson, and starring Byron Stewart (above). Opens June 2, runs thru July 4. Call (773) 883-1090. The play is a sassy, touching and triumphant story of the self-appointed Sir Damone and his journey to discover what it means to be a proud Black gay man.



Phillip Edward VanLear plays Paul Robeson in the Next Theatre's production of 'Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?,' thru June 5.

DANCE

May 27: **An Evening of Deeply Rooted Dance,** Roberta Flack and several musicians will perform live with the Deeply Rooted Dance Ensemble. Auditorium 773 363-1080

**** **June 25: An Intimate Evening of Dance** with Muntu Dance Th, River North Dance company, Same Planet, Different World and students from Dance Center of Columbia College and special performances by Carrie Hanson and Ascension (The Kirby Reed Project). Portion benefits Lesbian Communication Cancer Project. Dance Center, 4730 N Sheridan Rd. 773 779-2399

ART/PHOTO

African American Cultural Center Dell Washington, paintings. Henry Jones *On the Edge*, paintings to open Oct. 312 996-9549

The Dusable Museum of African American History *Tina Turner: The Girl From Nutbush* documentary on life, music of Tina Turner, her poverty-stricken youth in rural Tennessee, June 19. *State of the Blues: The Living Legacy of the Delta* features 90 portraits and 35 documentary photos of Blues Highway, a heritage trail thru the American South. June 3 thru Sept 12. 773 947-0600 New: Sun Free. Also *Harold Washington In Office*, permanent exhibition, w/ composite office setting; memorabilia; personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th and Cottage Grove Ave Washington Park 773 947-0600

Los Manos Gallery *Art Against Cancer* silent art auction, live music. Includes works of Nicole Hollander, creator of *Sylvia*. Benefits Lesbian Community Cancer Project $45. June 4, 7-11p, 5220 Clark 773 561-4662

Stephen Daiter Gallery Yasuhiro Ishimoto and Marvin E. Newman studied documentary photography at the Institute of Design, Chicago, 49-52, and have collaborated ever since: Uptown, Lincoln Park, Loop, Maxwell St and South Side thru June 12. 312 787-3350

Woman Made Gallery *Cut and Paste*, with a focus on collage, and *Shrines for our Fathers*, a solo work by Dian Sourelis,will run concurrently May 21-June 18th. 2nd Walk for Woman Made Gallery June 12 9am 5k course thru historic district 1900 S Prairie 312 328-0038

CALENDAR

Wed., May 26

Affinity TAE-BO exercise class, C.C. Carter instructs, 6:45 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, call (312) 409-7609.

Thursday, May 27

CellBlock Mr. Ebony Leather contest. with Guest emcees: Frank Nowicki & Queen Cougar 3702 N. Halsted, 773-665-8064

Deeply Rooted Theatre "An Evening of Deeply Rooted Dance" featuring Roberta Flack, 8p, Auditorium Th., 50 E. Congress. (773) 363-1080.

House of Blues KC & The Sun Shine Band (312) 527-2583

Hoxie's 1999 National Poetry Slam, 8p, donation, 1801 W. Lawrence. 989-4800.

International Mr Leather Weekend thru Mon, May 31 @ Ramada Congress Hotel. Info www.imrl.com.

Marigold Bowl register for Chicago MSA Summer Bowling Mixed Handicap League. Ten-week session begins June 3. 828 W, Grace, 7-9p.

Friday, May 28

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Gay & Lesbian History. (312) 742-1190.

Fusion Hardcore with DJ Psycho Botch. 3631 N. Halsted. 975-6622.

Hoxie's Storyteller Elyne Handler, 8p & 9:30p, 1801 Lawrence. 989-4800.

International Mr. Leather Leather market all day, opening ceremonies, registration. 1-800-545-6753, imrl@mindx.com, www.imrl.com Events all weekend at IML Headquarters Hotel, Congress Plaza, 520 S. Michigan, and at venues around city.

The Rails Remembrance Memorialday Weekend,dj's Ron Carroll - "The Minister of Sound" & Master Mixer Spen - Paradox 1675 Elston, (708) 802-1705.

Saturday, May 29

Bailiwick Repertory Larry Kramer's new play "Just Say No," with Greg Louganis & Alexandra Billings. 7:30p, $30 w/ reception. Benefits Chciago Anti-Bashing Network. (312) 416-1768.

CellBlock Mr.Bear Pride '99 On-Line Party 11am - 6pm, Leatherwomen Meet & Greet 7pm - 10 pm Uniform Night 9pm 3702 N. Halsted, 773-665-8064

Dyke March Planning Committee Presents Caught in the Act (a night of all-girl performance and art to benefit the 4th Annual Dyke March. 8;00 pm 2320 N. Milwaukee - above 2 Amigos restaurant

ONYX Presents Dance @ IML Music by Slave to the Rythm Productions 10pm - 2am Congress Ramada , Michigan & Balbo, Windsor Room. Donations to benefit ONYXCares. 312-329-6141.

Sunday, May 30

Circuit Miss Foozie's memorial day show. Variety show, 11p. Hi-energy dance, 9p. $5. Open until 4a.

HotHouse Collections by La Shawn Edwards. 31 E. Balbo. (312) 362-9707.

The Rails Flesh or Fantasy Sundays, Memorial Weekend blast with porn star Tyson Cain, (708) 802-1705.

Monday, May 31

9th Annual Black Lesbian and Gay Family Day Picnic 10a-dusk, Lots 23&24, Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. BPicnicpp@aol.com.

AIDS Pastoral Care Network 14th Memorial Dat Litugy for Persons Affected by HIV/AIDS 6:30pm St. Clement Church, 642 W. Deming Place Chicago.

Tuesday, June 1

Bailiwick Repertory Pride 99 through August. 1229 W. Belmont. $15-35. 883-1090. Tongiht is is A Real Read presenting *Conversation With A Diva*, by Dr. Shirlene Holmes, directed by Johnathan Wilson, through July 4, (773) 883-1090. Sassy, touching and triumphant story of the self-appointed Sit Damone and his journey to discover what it means to be a proud Black gay man.

Channel 19 Chic-a-go-go Mia & Ratso @ CMuseum of Science & Industry with Poi Dog Pondering & House O' Matic Dancers and Queer activist Darrell Gordon as the Dancing Dinosaur 8:30pm

Columbia College *Music: Battle Sounds* Film DocumentryScreening,by New York Filmaker John F. Carluccio, depicting hip-hop DJ culture from the first scratch to a new jazz for new times. 6pm, 623 S. Wabash, 312-663-1600

WTTW Ch.11 POV, The Legacy: Murder & Media, Politics & Prisions by Micheal J. Moore. The Murder of 18-year old Kimberly Reynolkds and 12-year old Polly Klass shattered the lives of these families. These two murders led to the enactment of the nation's toughest determinate sentencing law, known as "Three Strikes and You're Out". 9 p.m.

Thursday, June 3

Affinity Healthy woman nite, Cooking for your health with Kyle Wade, 7 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, (312) 409-7609.

Dusable Museum Nikki Giovanni, the award winning journalist and author will appear for a reception, lecture and book-signing of her latest *"Bluse: For All the Changes,"* 6pm 740 east 56 Place 773-947-0600

Friday, June 4

Berlin Rave dance exhibition & competition, cds & chance to win Cher tickets at pre-Dance for Life 1999 event. 8-10p, 954 W. Belmont.

Chicago Cultural Center Harold Washington Literary Award presented to Robert Pinsky at dinner & presentation. Mara Tapp chairs event. 6:30p.

Gerber/Hart Library Celluloid Outings film discussion. *High Art*. 7p, 1127 W. Granville. (773) 883-3003.

Howard Brown Health Center Counseling & Psychotherapy prof seminar: "The World of Lesbian & Gay Couples & Families," 2-4p, $20 ($10st) @ HBHC, Jon (773) 388-8904.

Las Manos Gallery "Art Against Cancer," juried show & silent auction to benefit Lesbian Community Cancer Project. Artists include Nicole Hollander, creator of the Sylvia comic strip. $45. 561-4662.

Saturday, June 5

1999 PFLAG Midwest Regional Conference presents "Renewing & Redeeming Society." Keynote address by Rev. Jimmy Crecch. Workshops include Multi-faith Panel, Exploring Transgender Issues, Making Schools Safe, Lesbian Health & Children's Museum diversity exhibit, followed by dinner at Rico's. 8a, Chicago Circle Center, 750 S. Halsted. (312) 413-8619.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Uptown. 312 744-6630. (312) 742-1190.

The Dance Center of Columbia College An Intimate Evening of Dance w/ Muntu Dance, River North Dance Co., Same Planet, Different World, and performaces by Carrie Hanson and Ascention. Proceeds to LCCP.. 7p, $25. 4730 N. Sheridan Rd. (773) 779-2399.

DuSable Museum Black Music Month. 1-2:30p. & "Shirley Horn," 2p.

Girlbar H.I.S. Female to male Drag, a high energy mix of dancing, drag and cabaret style entertainment. 2625 N. Halsted 773-871-4210

Harambee Wellness Center Howard Brown Health Center will celebrate Pride Month with the Grand Opening Party and Health Fair of their new center. The fair is free and open to the public10am-3pm 1515 East 52nd Place. 773-752-7867

Milly's Virgin Show featuring all-star cast of first-timers to the **Orchid Show,** Park West, (773) 929-5959. 8p.m.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children singer/songwriter/guitarist Deidre McCalla, 7:30p @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster; (312) 409-0276.

Old Town School of Folk Music Weavermania w/ Michael Smith, Mark Dvorak, Barbara Barrow & Tom Dundee 8p, 4544 N Lincoln. (773) 728-6000.

Printer's Row Book Fair Five tented blocks of booksellers, poetry readings, panel discussions, book-signings, Writers Resource Bazaar, children's programming, incl. celebrities including Nikki Giovanni, Donna Black, Cynthia Belmont, reading to kids. 10a-6p. Free. Dearborn/Congress & Polk. (312) 987-9896.

Sunday, June 6

Chicagoland Bisexual Network Bi Womyn's support/discussion, 11:30a-1:30p. Also, planning meeting for bi education forum 4p. (312) 458-0983, ext. 2.

Chicagoland Bi Network/ Howard Brown Health Center Married (or long-term relationship) bi women's support/discussion, 11:30a-1:30p. (773) 388-8933.

Drake Hotel 14th Bread & Roses benefit for Rainbow House. 15 chefs; 5:30p, $150, (312) 935-3430.

The Literary Exchange Book discussion & potluck. Queen Latifah's *Ladies First*. 4-8p. (773) 509-6881.

Jane Addams Resource Corporations Days of Future passed the 1999 Annual benefit will feature music, tarot card readers, story telling, live & silent auction, raffle drwing Cosponsored by Associated Bank, EURO RSCG Tatham, First Chicago 3-6pm, Architectural Artifacts, Inc.,4325 N. Ravenswood $20 in advance -$25 at door RSVP 773-871-1151.

House of Blues Vanilla Ice 7:30pm $15 329 N. Dearborn. (312) 527-2583

McAninch Arts Center @ College of DuPage DuPage Chorale Orchestra. 7:30p, $10/9. (630) 942-4000.

Printer's Row Book Fair Five tented blocks of booksellers, poetry readings, panel discussions, book-signings, Writers Resource Bazaar, children's programming, incl. celebrities including Studs terkel, Tony Hiss reading to kids. 10a-6p. Free. S. Dearborn (312) 987-9896.

Sundance Ch. Shorts Out Loud: The Absolution of Anthony, Fishbelly White, Two Girls and a Baby, 8p.

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) meet for brunch. (773) 784-8922 or (773) 235-5847.

Windy City Gay Naturists hot tub party, 8-10p, $16. (312) 494-2654.

Monday, June 7

Sundance Channel "*Out of the Past*," on g & I impact on past 400 years & efforts of high school teens now. 9p.

Wind City Gay Naturists Hot Tub Party 8pm $16 before 5/31, $20 after. Call Mark 847-451-1138 or 312-494-2654

Tuesday, June 8

Golden Threads, a film by director Lucy Winer about a 72 year-old lesbian who builds an internat'l organization for older women airs tonight at 10p on Point of View (P.O.V.).

Mayor's Annual Pride Reception Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washibgton, Preston Hall, 5:30 - 7:00p.m. 312-742-0212 to R.S.V.P.

Unabridged Books Andrew Holleran signs & reads from *The Spell*, 7:30p, 3251 N. Broadway. 883-9119.

Wednesday, June 9

Chicago Women's Health Center teams with Second City etc. for a benefit, 1608 North Ave., 8 p.m., (773) 935-6126.

House of Blues Gong. 9p, $15. 329 N. Dearborn. (312) 527-2583.

Lansky Career Consultants Workshop: What do you want to be when you grow up? 7-9p, $5. (312) 494-0022.

Thursday, June 10

Affinity Lez Chat, Coming Out To Your Parents, with Kim Campbell of PFLAG, 7 p.m., 5650 Woodlawn, (312) 409-7609.

Cultural Center Fareed Haque @ 6:30p, 77 E. Randolph. (312) 661-1028

Newtown Writers Pride Month open reading, 7:30p, Unabridged 3251 Broadway.

Southwest Women Working Togehter Brusch Srokes 6th Art Exhibit and Silent Auction Benefit, hosted by Golden Globe-winning, Emmy Award-nominated actress Regina Taylor. 6:30 - 9:30pm Martinique Restaurant, 2500 W. 95th Street

Friday, June 11

15th Chicago Gospel Music Festival Walter Hawkins & the Love Alive Choir, K&K Mime, GATT Gospel Quartet & more. Through the 13th on the lakefron in Grant Park. Free. (312) 744-3315.

Cocktail House dance exhibition & competition, cds & chance to win Cher tickets at pre-Dance for Life 1999 event. 8-10p, 3359 N. Halsted.

Gutrich Chiropractic Grand opening & health fair. 1425 W. Diversey, behind JanDee Jewelry. (773) 472-0700.

Saturday, June 12

2nd Chicago Alt.Film Fest Presents *Climb Against the Odds*, 12 Women, 5 with breast cancer climg Mt. McKinley narrated by Olympia Dukakis 3:35pm Harold Washington Library, 400 South State St. 773-525-4559

25th Wells Street Art Festival Works of over 200 fine artists displayed. 10a-10p. On Wells between Division & North. (773) 868-3010.

American Cancer Society Relay For Life for 12 hours (7pm -7am) at Illinois Institute of Technology, 3040 S. Wabash. for more information call 312-372-0471

Artemis Singers garage sale, 9a-5p, 4520 N. Avers, 267-3381.

Better Existence with HIV "Sistas Speak," Open group for women to talk about issues that are important to them as women. 4:30-6p, 1648 Howard St. Free childcare. Meets every other week.

Brothers United in Support reception & fundraiser. 6-9p, The Vix, 2814 N. Halsted. (773) 404-8726.

Buck's Saloon GLB Veterans of America's Annual Flag Day Beer Bust. (773) 752-0058.

DuSable Museum "B.B. King Live at Nick's," 2p. (773) 947-0677.

House of Blues Coolio 8p, $15. 329 N. Dearborn. (312) 527-2583

It's Time, Illinois! "Adventures in Genderland," A Fantasy evening of dining,

more detailed calendar listings in Nightlines, and online www.suba.com/~outlines/

dancing and entertainment with an original theatrical production by Lynnell Stephanie Long, music and dancing with Valerie James and special guests. $35, includes food, Ann Sather's, 929 Belmont. (708) 535-1506.

Women's Place Resource Center Fashion show, poetry reading, women's art work, food & music. Noon-6p, $10/15. 30 E. Adams, 4th floor. (773) 275-1319.

Sunday, June 13

2nd Chicago Alt.Film Fest *Wadd, The Life and Times of John C. Holmes Story* 3:00pm Harold Washington Library, 400 South State 773-525-4559

Absolut Croquet X & BBQ. Benefits Open Hand. At lakefront & Irving. 11a-4p, $35. 381-4382.

Chicagoland Bisexual Network/ Howard Brown Health Center Married (or long-term relationship) bi women's support/discussion, 11:30a-1:30p. (773) 388-8933.

Glessner House Museum Slide lecture: "Mr. Pullman's Statue: The History of the Ft. Dearborn Massacre Memorial." with Constance R. Buckley. 2p, $4-6. 1800 S. Prairie. (312) 326-1480.

Navy Pier Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund cruise (312) 663-4413

Monday, June 14

Ann Sather's on Belmont Reception for Advisory Council on G&L Issues. "From Advocacy to Action: Breaking the Silence on Bisexuality." 6-8p, (312) 742-8203.

Lifetime*Jackie's Back* a "mockumentry" film directed by Robert Townsend which comedically profiles former child star-turned-popdiva Jackie Washington. (Jenifer Lewis) also Tim Curry, Melissa Etheridge, David Hyde Pierce, Bette Midler, Dolly Parton, Liza Minnelli, JoBeth Williams and Mary Williams. 8p.

Tuesday, June 15

Berlin The Ultimate Drag Off to win tickets to see Cher. Ralphie Rosario spins. 773-871-7610.

Commission on Human Relation will present free anti-discrimination training sessions to staff from community organizations Pre-regisatration is required 312-744-4424, 740 N. Sedgwick, 4-6pm

Wednesday, June 16

Sidetrack slide show on "G&L History of Chi Highlights." 6:45p. 477-9189.

WTTW *In The Life's Gay Pride Special* Stories include The Judy Garland connection– a gay icon 30 years after the Stonewall riots, Project Yes – reaching out to gay youth in Miami, Rev. Irene Monroe, an activist and preacher speaks out,Paula Vogel – center stage with the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Stonewall 25 Remembered 11pm

Thursday, June 17

Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce 3rd annual It's a Pride Thing! professional cocktail party, 5-8:30 p.m., Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted, $20 in advance, $25 at door ($5 off for Pride cardholders). Featuring a TASTE OF THE CHAMBER, with Lauren's Catering, Conn's Catering, Hoxie's BBQ, and The Hearty Boys. Available at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark; RJ's Video, 3452 N. Halsted; and Hemingway Travel, 1640 N. Wells. Co-sponsored by: Chicago Bar Assoc., CPNA, GLSEN, GLBTP, Equal! at Lucent, ComEd CEEGLO, Gay and Lesbian Police Assoc., GLBVA, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, and Sangat. Call 1-888-GL-CHAMBER.

Harold Washington Library educational forum on bisexuality sponsored by Chicoland Bisexual Network & City of Chicago Advisory Counsil on G&:L Issues. Performance, panel discussion, community information.11a-1:30p. (312) 458-0983.

HotHouse Journalists of Color and Gay and Lesbian Journalists host a recetion and dance 6pm -12am $10 31 E. Balbo. (312) 362-9707.

Women & Children First Catherine Brady reads from and signs *The End of the Class War.* 7:30p, 5233 N. Clark. 769-9299.

WTTW The Castro tells the dramatic story of a quiet, working class San Francisco that became the coverstone of gay liberation in the 1970's.10:30pm

Friday, June 18

GLB Veterans of America South Side Welcome to Summer Party, noon-midnight. 752-0058.

OPALGA 1999 OPAL*GALA celebrating 10th anniversary of Oak Park Area Gay & Lesbian Association. Dinner, dancing, awards, auction. 7p, 104 S. Marion, Oak Park. (708) 848-0273. Spopnsored by American Airlines and Subaru.Tickets must be purchased by June 14.

Sundance Channel TV premiere of "The Hanging Garden," about a suicidal 350-pound gay teen.

Windy City Performing Arts Windy City Gay Chorus, Unison, Windy City Slickers, Aria perform in the Pride Concert, "Pride Center Stage"! Tonite & Sat. @ Athenaeum (773) 404-9242

Saturday, June 19

1st Annual Black GLT Come-Out Day Tell a friend.

Affinity 40-plus Open House, for women of all ages, 4 p.m, 5650 S. Woodlawn, (312) 409-7609.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Village in the City. Visit Beverly Hills-Morgan Park gracing Chicago's far southwest side, the nation's largest urban historic district. This tour includes a visit to the Beverly Arts Center, the Chicago Ridge Historical Society and lunch at the Dr. German House. June 19. (312) 742-1190.

DuSable Museum Juneteenth. 1-2:30p & "Tina Turner: The Girl from Nutbush," 2p. (773) 947-0677.

Facets Multimedia New African Cinema Film Festival through April 25. 1517 W. Fullerton. (773) 281-4114.

Puerto Rican Parade Gay and lesbian groups join together for a contingent, LCCP, Amigas Latinas, ALMA. (773) 561-4662. Wacker and Dearborn.

Women in the Director's Chair's 5th Lesbian Pride Night. *The Millenium Show: Pioneers of the New Dyke Cinema.* Quick trip thru 30 years of "firsts," including first lesbian coming-out story to play widely (Jan Oxenberg's 1972 *Home Movie*); first film with lesbian sex made by a lesbian (Barbara Hammer's 1974 *Dyketactics*); first film by and about Latina lesbian (Susan Munoz's 1980 *Susana*); documentary of America's first integrated male impersonation revue, by first out African-American lesbian filmmaker (Michelle Parkerson's 1987 *Storme: The Lady of the Jewel Box*); the first known queer youth video (Sadie Bening's 1989 *Me and Rubyfruit*); first film exploring homosexuality in India (Pratibha Parmar's 1991 *Khush*); early work by maker of the first African-American lesbian feature (Cheryl Dunye's 1993 *Greetings from Africa*); and much more. 7p, HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo, $8, (773) 907-0610.

Sunday, June 20

Women & Children First Peggy Gillespie reads from and signs *Love Makes a Family: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People and Their Families,* meet her and find out about the Family Diversity Projuects @ 1p & Nancy Farmer reads from and signs *The Warm Place* For Mothers and daughters 8-10. 5:30p, 5233 N. Clark. 769-9299.

Tuesday, June 22

Women & Children First Open Mic LGBT Poetry & Fiction reading. 3rd Annual Pride Week poetry & fiction reading Organized once again with the help of poet & Nightlines Journalist Gregg Shapiro, this spirited event is a must-attend. 7:30p, (773) 769-9299.

Wednesday, June 23

Affinity TAE-BO exercise class, C.C. Carter instructs, 6:45 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, call (312) 409-7609.

NIght Ministry Workshop on "Homophobia, Heterosexism & Your Congregation." 9:30a-noon, free, 1218 W. Addison. Must pre-register. 935-8300.

PBS *After Stonewal,* narrated by Melissa Etheridge, chronicles the gay and lesbian experience since the Stonewall riots.

Thursday, June 24

Soldier's Field 1999 Women's World Cup, 3rd world championship of women's soccer. Brazil vs.Italy, 5p; U.S. vs. Nigeria, 7:30p. (800) 992-8457.

Women & Children First Italian-American Lesbians open-mic reading Featuring Laura Scaccia Beagle and Theresa Carilli. 769-9299.

Friday, June 25

The Local 705 Auditorium The Greater Chicago Committee presents The Black BLACK Party 5, a 1970s Battle of the D.J.s. Dress in black 1970s attire. 10p-2a, $15/advance, 330 S. Marshfield. (312) 670-9660.

Test Positive Aware Network anniversary backyard party. 6-9p. 404-8726.

Saturday, June 26

Chicago 35 Womyn's Pride Dance,The Barn in Naperville (773) 381-3853.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Sukie de la Croix leads bus tour of g&l history plus lunch at Ann Sather's. (312) 742-1190.

Executive Sweet A Pride Celebration hosted by Pat & Vera, 9p-3a, 330 S. Marshfield (just west of Ashland at Van Buren). Free parking, (773) 375-7144. Featuring the Pulsation women's band, eateries by LaMont, attire hot & sexy, music by Ron Carroll. $10 cover.

Girls on Top An Outdoor Party with Pride hosted by WXRT's Terri Hemmert. Performance by Melissa Ferrick. Proceeds benefit Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of ACLU. 7-11p, Clark & Summerdale. Tickets available at Women & Children First and Temptations.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Proud to Run, (312) 409-8991.

Sunday, June 27

PRIDE CHICAGO Parade, (773) 348-8243, starts Roscoe & Halsted, 2p

The Generator Do It With Pride 3. Legendary Divas. Show at midnight. 306 N. Halsted. (312) 243-8889.

Girlbar 2nd Annual Outdoor Pride Day Party. 2625 N. Halsted 773-871-4210

Sandblast Howard Brown hosts this dance along the lake, 4p, S of Waveland Golf Course. 388-8992.

THRIVE '99 for youth and young adults up to age 23 by PRIDE Youth Programs of Links - North Shore Youth Health Service $5 door Ann Sather's ballroom, 929 W. Belmont 6-9pm. 847-441-9880

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, June 5

Deidre McCalla

Deidre

One of the delights of the summer will surely be this long-time Coffeehouse favorite. A singer, songwriter and guitarist, Deidre is an inspiring, evocative performer with a wicked sense of humor and a rock-solid beat!

Saturday, July 10:

Alix Dobkin

Alix returns for her yearly July visit. Always inspired and inspiring, this warm, witty, and politically motivating Lesbian Legend is a delight to hear, not only for her music, but also for her wonderful stories of dykedom.

1650 West Foster

Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Women & Children Only. Suggested Donation. 312-409-0276

VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. (The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.) **VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH** Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED** People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live

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EASY TO LIVE WITH.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

- Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do **not** have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

The following are registered trademarks of their respective manufacturers: Retrovir, Epivir/Glaxo Wellcome Oncology/HIV; Zerit, Videx/Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology; Invirase, Versed/Roche Laboratories Inc; Seldane, Rifadin, Rifamate, Rifater/Hoechst Marion Roussel; Hismanal, Propulsid/Janssen Pharmaceutica Inc; Halcion, Mycobutin/Pharmacia & Upjohn Co; Rimactane, Tegretol/CibaGeneva Pharmaceuticals; Viramune/Roxane Laboratories, Inc; Dilantin/Parke-Davis; Crixivan/Merck & Co, Inc; Imodium A-D/McNeil Consumer Products Co; Cordarone/Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories; Quinaglute/Berlex Laboratories; Cardioquin/The Purdue Frederick Co; Quinidex/A.H. Robins Co, Inc; Cafergot/Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. Norvir is a trademark of Abbott Laboratories.

Issued 11/13/97

CALL 1.888.VIRACEPT

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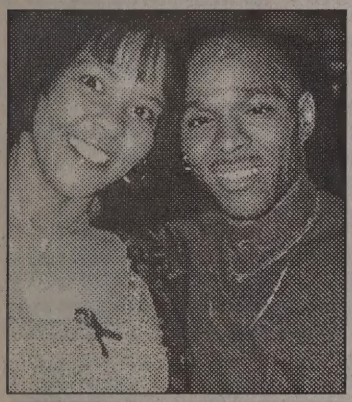
Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

The WACT group, Women of All Colors/Cultures Together, marked its 5th anniversary with—what else—a brunch! The event was at Affinity. Photos by Evette and LaJ.



Karen Kennies and David Dean, co-chairs of a benefit for HIV services at South Shore Hospital. Right are staffers with David. Photos by Israel Wright

LEFT: Otis Mack celebrated the 7th anniversary of providing a showcase for local and national talent. Photo by Israel Wright. All Jokes Aside hosted a pride night of comics. From left: Andre Kelley, Monique, Jamoceo Black and Coco. Front is John Fleming. Photo by Harry Tyner. BELOW: Fu Fu Entertainment celebrated an evening of color and pizazz at Maggiano's. A lifetime achievement award was presented to author E. Lynn Harris. Special guests included Milestone Productions of Atlanta and Strong Arm Productions of Detroit. The party was given by board members Rodney, Thayer, Roderick, Robert and Ron. President is Rodney. Pictured: Frederick Dunson of D/E Entertainment, Kendall Beatty of The Rails, and FuFu's Thayer Johnson and Rodney Jackson. Photo by Israel Wright

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Underground Techniques

DJ Harry T

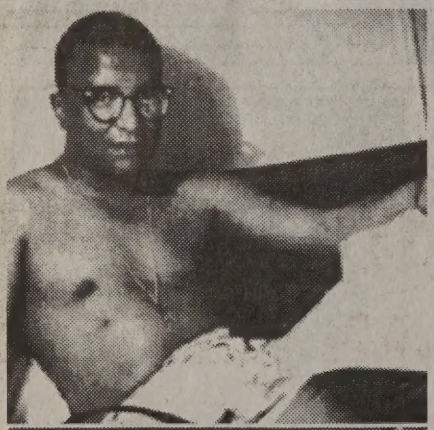
June is bursting out all over and so are the many releases that are gonna make you sweat with pride this summer! The Twisted camp will soon release the second single from Funky Green Dogs, "I Can't Help It," from their album, "Star." Chicago's own Celeda will release her single, "Be Yourself," from her debut album, "This Is It," which has been delayed until July. Kevin Yost has released his album, "Small Town Underground," which features "Watercolors," "Whispers in the Dark" and the club hit "One Starry Night." On the homefront, Chicago's own DJ Ralphi Rosario is currently working on his album which will hit the streets in July.

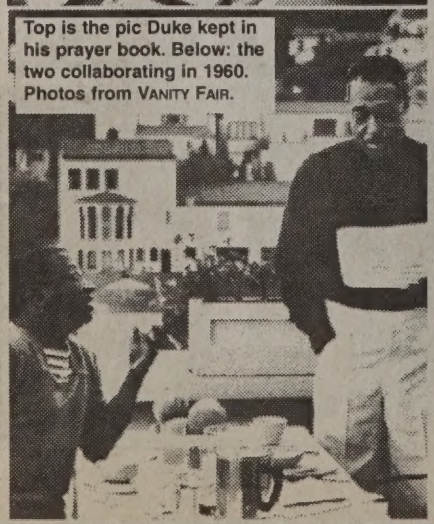
Underground singles that are catching a buzz 'round town are "El Ritmo" by Low Pass. Full on percussion and energetic. They will be releasing an album soon as well. Ricky Bradshaw released his "Jump? Skip?" ep featuring a remix of "Higher" and other deep infectious grooves on a new Chicago label, Moody records, which has been putting out quite a number of singles. Check it out! Ron Carroll releases his "Soundz" single on Afterhours. The Mazi and Spero mixes are a good choice to swing to. Mark your caledars for the return of the Godfather of House, Frankie Knuckles. He will be having his annual fourth of July Pride and Independence celebration at the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn. For more info, please call 312-339-5938.

In addition to celebrating pride and diversity, listed below are four trivia questions. The first five correct responses will receive a copy of an underground house mix by myself. The winners and the answers will appear in the July issue. Please forward your answers to: BLACKLINES Music Trivia, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, Il. 60657 or e-mail your response to: HT4PR@aol.com, subject: BLACKLINES Music Trivia. Good Luck!

Underground Trivia

1. Name the "House Music Anthem" and it's artist.
2. Name an album Steve "Silk" Hurley released on a major label.
3. Which house classic has been sampled the most?
   a) You Used To Hold Me
   b) Let No Man Put Assunder
   c) House Nation
4. Name the members of the Hot Mix 5.





Top is the pic Duke kept in his prayer book. Below: the two collaborating in 1960. Photos from VANITY FAIR.

The Duke and Billy ... Music to his ears

The CHICAGO TRIBUNE April 29 noted the tragedy of the lost works of **Duke Ellington,** on the 100th anniversary of his birth. Many of his works are deteriorating, and so many parts are lost they are unable to be performed as the Duke originally wanted. But the May VANITY FAIR probes deeper—and some of the reasons those works are not in permanent form may be because **Billy Strayhorn,** Duke's decades-long collaborator, preceded him in death. Duke was a well-known musician and composer before meeting Strayhorn, but after they began working together, Strayhorn became the biggest creative influence in the Duke's life, writes **David Hajdu** in his VF piece (he also wrote the Strayhorn bio, ***Lush Life,*** which was very clear about Billy's open homosexuality). Duke knew his good friend was gay, and this never caused trouble. And while Duke had many women friends over the years, Hajdu says his relationship with Billy is unclear. There certainly was great love between the two—but was there gay love? In his own bio, Duke said Billy "was my right arm, my left arm, all the eyes in the back of my head, my brainwaves in his head, and his in mine." Hajdu said that Duke "loved Billy Strayhorn more fully and deeply than he loved any woman." Of interest was a photo found in Duke's daily prayer book, donated to the Smithsonian after his death. Wedged into the book were photos, including one of Billy reading, topless on a bed. Duke's *private* collection.

Advocating music

The May 11 ADVOCATE has an interesting cover story, a profile of **Diana Ross.** THE ADVOCATE asks Diana about her screen role as **Billie Holiday,** and she says the fact that Billie was bisexual never came up during her research, so she didn't play it that way. "I really feel like you can love a lot of people; it doesn't really matter whether they're male or female. My relationship with guys, girls ... I just feel like you can be in love with anybody. You can love a woman—I mean, what makes you *not* be able to love like that." Diana was told about the Matt Shepard murder and said it takes a long time to change hatred. Diana says she would not care if one of her children turns out to be gay, and that she has always had many gay male friends. She also points out how many great gay male talents have been lost to AIDS, many of them her good friends.

Men's issue is coming in July
Deadline June 10.
Call (773) 871-7610, LaJ's VM

ATTENTION

COMMUNITY ELDERS

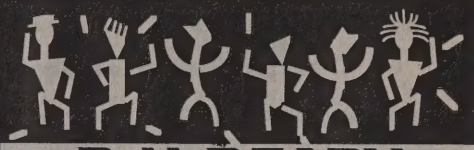
Horizons invites you to drop in at their Drop-In Center on Wednesday afternoons between 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., and on the first and third Friday of every month between 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The Center has been created as a space where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people 45 and older, and who are of various racial and ethnic backgrounds, can come together to make new friends and socialize.

For more information call
The Lesbian & Gay HELPLINE
(773) 929-HELP
between 6-10 p.m. daily

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES
Chicago's Lesbian & Gay Community Center

HARAMBE JAHARD



R U READY?

A Discussion Group for Suburban Black Gay Men

Meetings every 2nd Tuesday
1145 Westgate #210, Oak Park

For Info call 708-445-2584
Food & Drink Provided

Facilitated by
Preston L. Shumaker

Come, Join the Evolution!

Lookin' Good...

Join a gym to work on the brother *outside* –

Feelin' Good!

Join us in focusing on the brother *inside* !

IMANI UMOJA

A Discussion Group for Gay & Bi Brothers of Color

773.288.1535

Meetings every 3rd Friday
Resurrection M.C.C.
Davis Hall 1164 E. 58th Street
starting at 7 pm

Preston L. Shumaker, Workshop Coordinator
Sponsored by Sinai Family Health Centers

April 'Leaves It Open'

by LaJaunessee Jordan

Author April Sinclair found time in her busy schedule to stop by the BLACKLINES office while she was home in Chicago promoting her new book, *i left my back door open*. She had just come from Afrocentric Books and V103 radio station and would be at Women and Children First, African-American Images and Seminary Coop Bookstore during the next 24 hours.

Chicago loves our South Side homegirl who authored *Coffee Will Make You Black* (1994) and *Ain't Gonna be the Same Fool Twice* (1996). All three books were published by Hyperion. *Coffee Will Make You Black* was named a Book of the Year (Young Adult Fiction) by the American Library Association and Sinclair received the Carl Sandburg Award from the Friends of the Chicago Public Library for that book.

Each of Sinclair's books has had a lesbian character. In her first two novels, the main character is a lesbian. The author said she has been told, "You always have to put a lesbian (in your books)," and "Are you always going to have a lesbian angle or a gay angle in your books?" Sinclair told BLACKLINES, "People always have straight angles. And there's so little out there in the mainstream that deals with gay and lesbian issues. Why is the focus on my having one rather than on other people not having it?" Sinclair asked. She said she gets a range of responses from the general population.

Sinclair. Photo by Tracy Baim

Coffee Will Make You Black was banned from one of Chicago's high schools, yet it is required reading for the freshman class at Berkeley high school in California, Sinclair said, adding that she is their second choice for graduation speaker. She has a large teenage following from *Coffee*... She said Stevie, the main character, was so acceptable and was able to get into people's hearts. Sinclair said her goal is to reach people who would not ordinarily be reached. She said a mother told her that her teenage daughter would stay in her room with the covers over her head reading *Coffee*... and she "knew something was wrong" because her daughter never reads books and suddenly she couldn't put the book down. That mother, other mothers and their teens read the book and then Sinclair had a discussion about it with the girls.

Sinclair told BLACKLINES that a major motion picture studio is already interested in making the film *i left my back door open*.. She said she is hopeful but has concerns. There was interest in *Coffee*... but she couldn't let "my baby" go with people making various changes and Sinclair having no control. She said, "Do you take the money and run and close your eyes or get as involved as you can." She said some people say that this is a story that needs to be told and she should not keep it from the screen. Sinclair said the film studio has talked to a couple of stars about the project and one is interested.

On a personal note, Sinclair said she is dating and is ready to settle down, "If the bags aren't too heavy and if it's not a steamer truck," she said. Although she is dating more than one person, Sinclair said, "It's narrowing down."

REVIEW

April Sinclair's new book *i left my back door open* (Hyperion, $22.95) shows the main character looking for love in the I-Feel-Your-Pain '90s. Dee Dee is a 41-year-old strong but vulnerable Black woman who is a Chicago DJ. Dee Dee says she is "a single occupant in a double occupancy world."

Dee Dee is like many Black women who feel they aren't really complete without a man. She meets Skylar, a mediator brought in by the radio station to resolve a sexual harassment dispute. She gets her hopes up as she continues to struggle with food and a childhood secret. (I'm not spoiling it for you. This happens early on.) "'I hear you,' (Dee Dee) said, looking out toward the blooming garden. I understood about self-esteem. I knew that you could look good on the outside and feel bad on the inside. I knew that you could take a bath and still feel dirty. I knew that you could have a belly full of food and still feel empty. I knew that a child could be read a fairy tale and be tucked into her own bed and still not be safe. But I didn't want to think about that, because I didn't want to fall apart. I hadn't forgotten that all the king's horses and all the king's men, couldn't put Humpty-Dumpty back together again," Dee Dee states in April Sinclair's *i left my back door open*.

Dee Dee's longtime friend, Sharon, comes out to her. The main character said, "I was thoroughly confused. I'd assumed that Sharon's heterosexuality had been written in stone." She later inquired, "So, now you suddenly woke up and smelled the pussy, so to speak. Is that what you're saying?" Dee Dee asked. An added factor is Tyeesha, Sharon's teenage daughter who has some difficulty with her mom's lesbianism. Sinclair is glad that Tyeesha plays a larger role than originally intended. She knows that it will please her large teen following.

E. Lynn Harris said, "April Sinclair's jazzy new novel is her best yet. Her syncopated rhythms and her cool, bluesy tones make her Ella Fitzgerald's literary rival."

Read April Sinclair's *i left my back door open* and feel her magic with words.

Bridgforth wins

Sharon Bridgforth's *the bull-jean stories* by RedBone Press, won the 1999 Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian and Gay Small Press at the Los Angeles ceremony last month.

BLACK LINES

EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

BLACK LINES
the women's issue
this issue of blacklines features special contributions by black lesbians
BLACK LINES
LITERARY TREATS
BLACK LINES
UNITY V
The Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays 5th Annual Unity Conference is April 14-16. Keynote speakers include Barbara Smith (right), Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones (below) and Rev. Carol Johnson.
See pages 14-15 for interviews and a feature on CBLG.
ALSO INSIDE:
BLACK LINES
SIMON DIES
South Africa's most well-known gay activist is dead of AIDS. Simon Tseko Nkoli died Nov. 30 at Johannesburg General Hospital.
See page 6
INSIDE
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SHUT DOWN—ABL FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY, CHICAGO'S CONDORS LOSE FLIGHT
PARIS BARCLAY ON "IN THE LIFE"
CHICAGO LESBIANS HEAD TO ATLANTA
VIEWS BY LESTER DAVIS, SANFORD GAYLORD, VICKY NABORS & MORE

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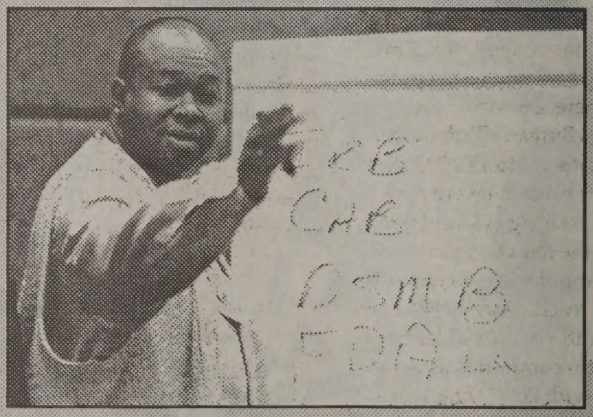
Signature: _____

Flame Monroe (left) hosted her Gong Show at the Generator. She does the show every Thursday. Pictured are Westside Jamie, Sapphire Blue and Amelia Black. Photos by Israel Wright



More pics from the Chicago Black Lesbian and Gay Unity Conference. ABOVE, LEFT: Andre Gates, Aaron Bulgari, Kenneth Bulgari (House of Bulgari-Detroit), and Francis Champion, all from Detroit, attended Unity V. Right: Steve Wakefield conducting an "HIV/AIDS and the Black Community" Workshop April 17. BELOW: Horizons Youth workshop participants. Photos by Patrick A. Robinson

Church Opens Computer Center

by Robert Schultz

A dozen gleaming new fully networked personal computer workstations are available for use at Church of the Open Door's Center for Community Change. Dedicated in late April, Church of the Open Door's computer center is a bold testament for computer access, including the Internet, for all regardless of income or race. According to the United States Bureau of the Census, youth under age 17 lead in having access to a computer anywhere. However the Census Bureau's latest available statistics from 1993 show that for those who are non-white, over age 18, and who are in the lower income brackets, computer access remains out of reach. Only 13.8% of Blacks 18 years or older have access to computers as compared with 26.9% of all races within the same age group. The Church of the Open Door's location in a neighborhood where the Arab, Mexican, Black and poor white communities spill into one another for a rare ethnic mix on Chicago's Southwest Side makes the computer center a unique community asset.

After Church of the Open Door's Pastor Karen Hutt opened the inaugural Tuesday night class on May 4 with prayer, the pride of the accomplishment for having such a resource developed by the Black Lesbigaytrans community was palpable. The anticipation among the students to do something with state-of-the-art high tech tools was apparent as well. The computer center is to be used by Church's surrounding community, church members, and the Black LBGT community.

Early in the Church's ministry, Hutt explained after Tuesday night's class was completed, the Church started a job ministry. It quickly became apparent that to compete successfully computer literacy was a must. Hutt said Shelton Watson played a key role in launching the center. A significant boost came recently when a nearly $30,000 grant was awarded to Church of the Open Door by United Church of Hinsdale, a member like Church of the Open Door of United Churches of Christ.

Hutt explained the ambitious vision for the center. Individuals will be able to enhance their employable skills through the classes that are being offered. The latest technology is available for those who wouldn't have access to it. For more information about classes or use of the computer center contact the Church at (773) 778-3030.

Maat gets the Land

The Maat Dompim, Womyn of Color Land Project, acquired 109 raw acres of beautiful, rolling, wooded countryside in the only mountains of otherwise prairie-flat Buckingham County, Virginia. Blanche & Amoja, after seven years of searching and negotiating, sometimes finding and losing, have the land. After 12 months of grappling with officials, lawyers, and the infamous title search company from hell; after 12 months of increasing lengths of time spent navigating courthouse records, and 100-year-old handwritings of dead racists; there is now finally, a manatee-shaped piece of real estate that, according to the American system, "belongs" to Maat Dompim.

The purchase price was $50,000, and thanks to LNR and many generous donors, they had $30,000 for their down payment. "Many blessings and thanks to all the wonderful wimmin who contributed prayers, cash, equipment, advice, time, and faith to bring us this far," Amoja Three Rivers said. "Finally the gift we have been trying to give our community is something tangible that you can walk on and nurture. So—what happens next? Now wimmin can start the fun part of building things, teaching, learning and celebrating. PHASE 1 is the creation of accommodations for rustic camping and informal gatherings and will include: creating a site plan, improving the roads, clearing the land for camping, installing sanitary facilities and showers, build rustic cabins, building residences."

Seven Sisters Aromatherapy bath Salts and herbal talismans are part of Maat Dompim's nascient cottage industries efforts. The sale of these products, along with Market Wimmin's and Susan Fatdove's Crafts, and the Black Womyn's Reading Series, will enable the wimmin of Maat Dompim to continue to do the work of developing the land and facilitating Maat Dompim projects. These handcrafted items, books, etc., will be sold through mail, in local bookstores and at various wimmin's events and fund raisers around the country. For further purchase 7/or wholesale info, contact: Maat Dompim, Women of Color Network, P.O. Box 7724 Charlottesville VA 22906. Call (540) 992-0248.

But part of being a federally recognized non-profit means that MAAT DOMPIM is a community-based organization, and can survive and grow only with continuing community participation and support. This means MAAT DOMPIM needs ongoing tax-deductible donations for materials, labor and operating expenses, as well as for mortgage payments. They also need interested wimmin to visit & participate. MAAT DOMPIM is for Womyn of Color, their friends, lovers and allies. For further information &/or send donations contact: MAAT DOMPIM, P.O. BOX 7724, Charlottesville VA 22906. (504)992-0248 voicemail.

This will not be a "community" or commune, per se. Instead it will offer limited short residencies for womyn doing retreats and projects. Camping and dorm space will be available for visitors and guests. It will also be a place for relaxation, spiritual regeneration and healing.

MAAT DOMPIM WISH LIST

Cell Phones
a generator
camcorder
lanterns
flashlights
Mac G3 /or i Mac
tents
tractor
wood chipper
lawn chairs
office supplies
bedding
sleeping bags
batteries
VCR

And they need Wimmin to
Visit & Participate
Grant writers
Friends & allies
Solar engineers
Builders
Architects
Supports
Plumbers
Surveyors
Fundraisers
Cat Sitters
Sooth sayers
Jills of all trades
and teachers & workshop leaders in all varieties of construction skills.

BOYKIN from 10

KB: I put Dr. King on my birthday, it's actually the same day as Dr. King's speech on the March on Washington, Aug. 28, 1963.

BR: Do you think that quote was appropriate for you?

KB: The quote I put on my birthday was: "Nothing pains some people more than having to think." It is not a quote from his speech that day. It is appropriate for me because that is my life's journey and my life's mission, having to think more critically of myself. And really challenging other people to think more critically about issues of race and sexuality and gender, all of the different topics that people don't want to dwell on or get into. So I think that is classic for me.

One of the things I've learned in this journey, I read this book a few years ago, *Conversations with God*. It opened my mind to a new way of thinking about God, a more love-centered way of thinking about God. Unconditional loving.

It challenged my views of heaven and hell, and about sin and evil to the point now where I don't know that I actually believe in heaven and hell, and I don't know that I believe in sin and evil. That is not to say that I don't think that there are things that happen that we experience as bad. But I think the key is that we experience them that way. But most events that happen, at least as I perceive them, are really neutral. We put value into them.

BR: The things we don't understand we label as evil.

KB: That's exactly what I was going to say. The things that we can't quite grasp, a heinous crime, we can't understand Hitler and Nazism, and they are evil to us because they completely challenge our thread of existence and our way of life, our morality. And yet there is a purpose for why the things in our lives happen. What we are to do, I think, is learn from those experiences. And that is really, really difficult for people to understand.

BR: How did you decide to label each month?

KB: That was a very difficult process. I knew I wanted to have themes for months of the year. Faith is enormously important and I put it at the beginning because, in my opinion, faith is the beginning process for all of our growth. And love, which I put as the second one. Those two principals really ground us for everything. I wanted to end with serenity because, particularly when you get to the end of the year, it's really important for people to take stock of what they did and did not accomplish that year. Not to beat themselves up but to learn about what they are capable of, to be grateful for all of the things that they have in their lives, and to try to do more.

You are not going to die having accomplished everything in life that you wanted to accomplish, and if you did, they you really didn't aim very high.

BR: What were the toughest virtues not to include?

KB: Faith, love, honesty, those were easy to include. Balance and serenity, courage, determination, those were easy for me. Fairness is important to me. I think it is particularly important to this community too, to African-Americans, to lesbians and gays, to Black gays and lesbians.

I also thought about including forgiveness as opposed to compassion. The ability to forgive ourselves and to forgive others is an incredible limiting aspect of our growth. A lot of people are still stuck on this issue in the past. They are stuck with all of the things they haven't done. They haven't met their career goals or whatever. They are stuck with what their parent's did to them, or somebody else has wronged them, they are stuck in the racism of the world, the homophobia of the world.

What I'm saying is that those things may be true. But we are never going to be able to grow and develop as individuals and as a community if we only dwell on what other people have done to us, if we don't accept responsibility for what we can do for ourselves.

So forgiveness means we have to forgive ourselves for any mistakes we have made, anything we didn't do right until right now. And we have to forgive everybody else for anything that they did to us, in order to keep moving on.

I talk about racism and homophobia extensively. I talk about why it is important that we address these things. But I also talk about how we can't get bogged down in only focusing on these things, and using those as excuses not to do what we need to do in our own lives, our own families, our own communities.

BR: Where did the little symbols each month come from?

KB: I was reading a book on the world's religions and on the cover were the various symbols of the world's religions. I was thinking about a yin-yang symbol. So I designed a little something and sent it off to the publisher. They said, this is a great idea and they came up with their own. They had an illustrator come up with 12 different designs. I looked through them, a few of them I changed because I didn't think they were appropriate. Others we kept. My favorite is the one for June, a hand reaching up and a hand reaching down in the stars.

BR: You wrote this primarily for the African-American community. Why should other folks read it?

KB: I think the messages are for the most part universal. There are some messages that are very specifically tailored to the community of Black lesbians and gays. And people can choose whether they want to read that and get something out of it or not. But for the most part it is really open.

The very first e-mail I got about the book was from a classmate of mine from law school. She is a white, fairly conservative Christian woman in Texas, who must have purchased the book online. She sent me an e-mail saying that she had started reading it and really liked it. There is a lot in it that appeals to people who aren't Black lesbians and gays.

Part of the reason why I wanted to have a book that was titled toward that community of Black lesbians and gays is because I felt that whatever marketing disadvantage there might be by not accepting this broader mandate would be overcome by the extreme interest within the community.

BR: I looked at your book tour schedule and I got tired just reading it ...

KB: People think it is glamorous traveling to all of these places, and it can be if you have everybody taking care of all of the details for you .... But when you're doing it yourself and it is just hotel to hotel, airport to airport, plane to plane, it can be very tiring. The reaction I've gotten is just how grateful people are that someone finally took the time to put together a book like this. I've been kind of overwhelmed by it. I got an e-mail from a doctor in Chicago who said he purchased ten copies, is really excited about it, and he sent one to a friend of his who is a producer for *Oprah*'s show.

BR: This book seems to be a change in direction for you.

KB: It is. I know that there is a great transition going on in my life right now, in many different ways, spiritually, professionally, all different aspects of my life. But it is only a step along the way, it's not where I hope to end up. I'm just trying to be at a place where I'm open to receiving all of the different things that happen. That's the challenge.

***Respecting the Soul* is now in its second printing.**

Men from all over the country attended the annual Brother 2 Brother Black Men's Retreat in Eureka, Missouri. Regional groups are pictured. ABOVE: St. Louis (left) and Chicago. BELOW: Mississippi (left), California (middle) and Tennessee. Photos by Israel Wright

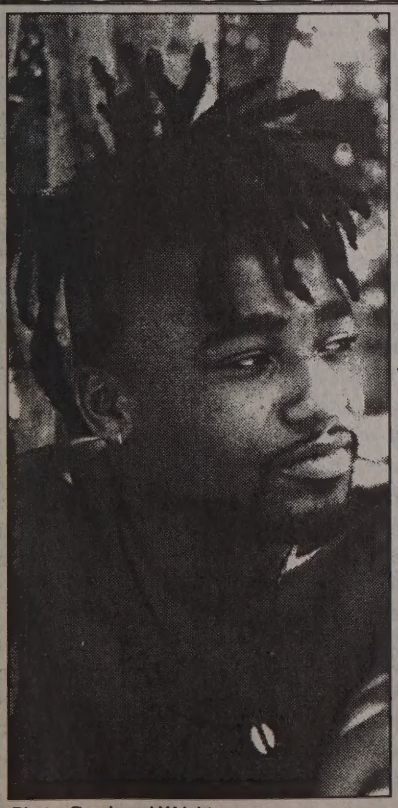


Photo By: Israel Wright

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ADODI, is the plural of ***ADO***, a Yoruba word that describes a man who loves another man. More than just a description of partners, in Africa, the ***ADODI*** of the tribe were revered as shamans, sages and leaders.

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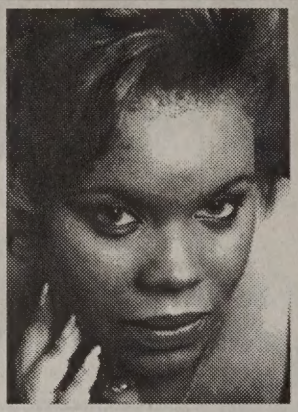
How I See It

You've Said Enough

by C.C. Carter



Dear Jenny,
Dear Jerry, Dear Rikki,

Just want to thank you for the wonderful job you've been doing perpetuating the negative stereotypes that already exist in mainstream society about Lesbians, Gays, Transgendered, African-Americans (overall), Black men, and women.

I never knew that we (I , fitting at least three of those categories), were so messed up. I guess my friends and I are not the norm like I thought.

I mean, who knew that transgendered and drag queens were so manipulative and down right liars—dating and deceiving straight men for months on end, and then getting attitudes because the man wants to beat them down for bringing them on national TV then disclosing that they are men or pre-op. I never knew. My friends, Lorraine and Lynnell, don't seem the type. The civil rights and activist work that they commit themselves to seems so honest and cause worthy. I've never known them to hide or lie about who they are.

And those gay boys, those "faggots," who come out swinging their embellished idioms and sarcastic overused exaggerations, looking as trashy as their attitudes—disgraceful. Alden, Michael, Shelton, Sanford, and all the other gay men who reek of maleness just have me fooled. The brothers that I know must have double lives.

Organizations like Adodi and Brother to Brother must be cover-ups for training gay men to be so catty. And what about those flamboyant sissy boys. Boris wears his Queenness as a badge of honor. There is dignity in his back when he enters into a room, and a sassy eloquence that flows from his tongue when he speaks. Fooled, all have me fooled.

And those Lipstick Bisexual Lesbians—leaving their man to have "flings" with their best friends, only to find out that she's sleeping with another man. Cat fighting on stage cause she lied to her who lied to him who lied to each other. What's that about? My friends have had five, ten, fifteen, and thirty year partnerships and never once have I heard of the "crossing over to be with another guy" as a reason for their break ups. Butch women that I know don't sit back passively and let two femmes scratch and claw each other's clothes off while they sit in the middle like they're the Man. Those women need mentors like the women I know, Jackie, Vernita, Verna, Deb, Karl, and any others who'd like to take the challenge to mold some stud in the making. Femme women I know, claim it like the goddesses they are and wouldn't be caught dead breaking a nail on their fellow sistafriends. In fact Paula, Kim, and myself would find it truly degrading to be on your shows.

Speaking of women , particularly Black women, I have never been told I have too much junk in my truck. The women that I see who are voluptuous and full, know that there is a sacredness in their hips and the ancestors live in those thighs and they walk with a sway cause there's a blessing in their backs. Amazon queens stroll through my community and our city recognizes them for their strength and womaness. Women like Mary, Chris, Laj, and Gaylon, are women warriors, and there is ultimate respect given when they walk into a room. By the way, Jenny, thank you and your producers for turning me down when I sent you my "Hips" poem. I was hoping to be a role model for the women who were on your show and misrepresenting themselves with too tight pants and inappropriate dresses. I guess you didn't want me to tell them they were Queens and their beauty lies in their attitude, not the magnitude of their bodies squeezed into skimpy clothing.

I want to thank you all for consistently letting me know that interracial only means Black man with white woman. For portraying Black males as the only stallions and players, who prey on single white females. Flaunting white big-breasted beauty queens on the stage and putting the camera on all the young Black males whooping and hollering over them. For having Black males sit in the middle of two white women screaming and yelling about how good he does it to her, yet he doesn't have a job, and how he won't take care of his children. I must thank my father and my brother for doing me a favor. Black women who are overly assertive and extremely scandalous and conniving—no wonder they don't want us. I must tell my mother that she should be grateful for having a man at all.

So how I see it, is you are defiantly doing your part in making sure that the world continues to view us as sick, unstable, immoral characters from some very badly written staged performance. That we who live very "quote" normal lives are too uninteresting to be viewed and don't increase your ratings. Or maybe you have no desire to set the record "straight," that there are those of us who are so not like what you portray on screen, walking and working, and stable, and more adjusted than the world wants to know.

Oh yeah, and Oprah with your, "I want to Change Your Life TV"—you who has the world in your bank account, have the ultimate power to change the perception of how people view us, but won't. I remember when you began to change people's lives, and you said, "I promise my viewers that I will not do Those type of shows again." Those type of shows are exactly what we need to combat the Jerrys, the Jennys, and the Rikkis. With all of the life changing you've committed to doing, our lives don't count. I'll give it to you for having Ellen on, again, but what about the homophobia in the Black Community.

How about putting Renae, or Marjorie, or Willa, or Keith on your show. Let them represent us with class and honor. It was OK to address gay issues when you were promoting your gay hairdressers' book, but after that, "Those" kind of shows no longer appealed to you. How 'bout it Oprah? Change the way people view our lives. Now I could be wrong, but that's how I see it. Go Jenny, Go Jerry, Go Rikki, GoGoGo Go, No for real though, Please go, You've said too much and I've had enough.

Sincerely, C.C. Carter,
Black, Lesbian, Femme

ON LOVING THE MEN WE ARE

by John-Martin Green

As Black same-gender-loving men we have, all our lives, been dually oppressed. As men, we have been doubly shunned, abused and rendered invisible for being African and for being same sex prone. From the cradle we were given to understand that the men we would be were doubly bad, wrong and unacceptable. These signals, rendered in epithets like "nigger" and "faggot" have come from both the larger society, a.k.a. white folks and, too frequently, from our own families and communities as well. For this inexorable denial of our humanity and specifically, our manhood—nigger meaning sub-human, and faggot meaning less than man—many of us have retreated from large portions of our man-selves. In fact, "She," "Miss Thing," "Girlfriend," or "Queen," used in reference to a man are all tantamount to "Nigger" because they are every bit as much a denial of that man's masculinity. So, just as we internalized a white supremacist model of experience which gave us to see 'white,' as 'right,' we also internalized this culture's homophobia and heterosexism which gave many of us to believe that we are so in-valid as men that it's easier simply tapping our female energies.

We must harken back to the strengths of our fathers to find more balance, grace and joy in being the men we are. We honor the image of womanhood. The strong Black woman, the defiant white woman, woman. Our strong identification with women is, in some instances, rooted in formative years during which the models who appeared to us to be more stable, resilient and whole were women. We must identify and tap into those areas of experience through which our fathers, uncles, grandfathers, brothers, male friends and neighbors have been good, and powerful, and triumphant and splendid. Harkening back to the strengths of our fathers may help to relax some of the tension and pressure of being the very special Black men that we are. In order to enjoy more balance, having incarnated as male, we must embrace and celebrate our man selves. Our father which art within us hallowed be thy name. The fact of the matter is that even the most cloistered and repressed among our fathers lived through extraordinary torture. For this torture many Black men were not paragons of balance. To the extent that this may have been the case for any of us, we afford ourselves tremendous healing reflecting on them as generously as we can. Likewise, those among us who had Black father figures who were able to be there for us and who did not act out their torture at their families' expense, may also benefit from examining the value we place on those men's essences in our lives and selves.

To be a Black man in America when my father was a Black man in America was to be consistently thwarted. My father was one of those tortured brothers. And as he was tortured, he often tortured us. God Bless him, he was beyond bitter, he was enraged and had gone mad before I ever met him. Among my earliest childhood memories is a scene in which, at age four, I stood in the middle of our dining room floor one night transfixed in terror, screaming for my father to stop hitting my mother, while my older brothers tried to pull him away from her. I also remember him rallying Black people about the wonderfulness of their blackness in his big, booming, bass voice from the same pulpit Reverend Powell did. I remember him rushing me to the hospital when I couldn't breathe in the middle of countless frigid winter nights. I remember his standing up with my mother to a belligerent white teacher who'd seated me by a window where I'd been miserably cold. I remember those rare and funny moments when he was so happy he would try to sing.

When they still classified homosexuality as a mental illness, one of the reasons they told us we were so was because we'd had destructive male role models against whom we were rebelling. That ain't it. We were born Adodi. The point is that, just as we have learned what many women of this generation have been trying to teach their men—how to access and celebrate our female energy—we must also learn or relearn how to celebrate our male energy. If we do not, a vital part of our life force is being lost to the world and to us. Central to our uniqueness and power as same-gender-loving Black men is our extraordinary ability to experience through both our male and female sources.

It is that two-spirit embodiment we walk the world with which, when we are balanced in it, gives us the capacity to be gatekeepers, shamans, sages, etc.

Father's Day is June 20.

A Real Read

&

Bailiwick Arts Center
Present

Chicago's African American LesbigayTrans Performance Ensemble

Conversation with A Diva

by Playwright Dr. Shirlene Holmes
Directed by Johnathan Wilson

Conversation With A Diva is the sassy, touching, and triumphant story of the self appointed Sir Damone and his journey to discover what it means to be a proud Black gay man. Jeff Citation award winning actor Byron Stewart shares with us Sir Damone's life, loves, losses and laughter in a delightful evening of theatre.

Preview - Tuesday, June 1 at 7:30pm
Opening night - Wednesday, June 2 at 7:30pm
Regular performances : Wednesdays at 7:30pm, Saturdays at 2:30pm and Sundays at 5:30pm
The play runs through July 4th.
There is no performance Sunday June 27th

Performances at:
Bailiwick Arts Center
1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Ticket Info (773) 883-1090

For more info about
A Real Read
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread

Leather Scene

by Cain Berlinger

Combating racism means becoming a part of the community and fighting our battles from within. What happens when any of those doors seem slammed shut. Men Of Discipline, a leather BDSM fraternity, was accused of doing just that. I had the privilege of speaking with MOD D.C. founding member, Lt. Colonel Ron Meshanko, on the alleged racist policies of MOD.

MOD DC (MODSF) is an alternative BDSM fraternity for gay men serious about the leather/uniform lifestyle, bridging the OLD and NEW guard, attracting those interested in BDSM into the leather tribe. Enforcing the disciplines of SM & Leathersex, expanding limits, control, dominance—submission, authority, rules, punishment, etc. We are also talking about behavior patterns, the way a person acts, the manner in which a person conducts himself.

CB: Is MOD racist?

RM: MOD has had the stigma of being a neo-Nazi group because of our military discipline and uniforms. OUT magazine did a story about MOD in 1996 that made references to us as being "neo-Nazi" in appearance. We are totally dedicated to inclusivity and have people of color and Jewish members, one of our founders was Puerto Rican. Recruits are observed to see that they respect everyone regardless of sex, age, creed, and race. We do not accept members who manifest any discriminatory behaviors or who adhere to ideologies that discriminate against others.

CB: Does MOD feel unfairly challenged as a group because of this image?

RM: Many Gay men discriminate against women, and heterosexuals as much as POC. MOD has been very active in coalition building with various groups in the leather tribe to be more inclusionary of everyone.

MOD have to go the extra mile to disprove unfair rumors leveled against us. Our uniforms draw attention to us. We have the responsibility to ensure that we present an image that is true to the mission and purpose of the fraternity.

CB: What are you doing in the way of outreach into the communities?

RM: This past year we accepted our first African-American member and our first transgendered male member. We've had public demos in which women have participated. The problem is public misconception and ignorance, prejudice and bigotry, homophobia and SMphobia. Two female Black title holders marched with us at NYC Gay Pride in 1996. Jill Carter flogged me on P Street in Dupont Circle during BHT's leather carnival, and still the rumors fly!

CB: Will MOD be the catalyst to flushing out racists in the community?

RM: I have told at least three men that MOD would not accept their applications because they told me they were glad we did not have any Black members (at the time), horrified, I informed them that this was against our Codes of Discipline.

Unfortunately, some people like to hold on to their ideas, they WANT us to be a certain way and we are adamant in stating "no!" We have received many disparaging comments from leather men/fraternities for associating with women. It is an awkward position to be in, particularly when a man that I lust after, and discriminatory comments come from him changing that lust to disgust and sadness. We say we are one Leather Nation, ONE Leather Tribe, however, the seeds of discrimination are firmly planted within each of us. It takes time, reflection and action to boldly make change.

Send comments suggestions to writercain@aol.com

Thy Cup Runneth Over

Transgendered Youths—Interview with Mercedes Boné Marié.

by Lynnell Stephani Long

"Your prejudice is not hurting me. Your prejudice and your bigotry are hurting your nieces, your nephews, your sons and your daughters. They are our future, and they may be Transgendered." — Lynnell Stephani (from my performance piece, "No More Pretending.")

It has always been my mission to do my best to reach out to transgendered youths. I remember when I was a teenager, I searched constantly for a role model. I found one, but she was a transgendered prostitute, named Roxanne. Back in the '70s, the only transgendered women that were visible on the South Side were the girls on the street. Although it was difficult for me to relate to them, it helped to know that I was not alone in my gender dsyphoria.

I met Mercedes at the Unity Conference, in the ladies room. As we both touched up our make-up and lipstick, she felt self-conscious about her looks, and asked me did she look like a man. I told her no, that she was a beautiful woman, and asked her is she was she transgendered. She said yes, I then came out to her as Intersex. Her mouth dropped, and she complimented me on my beauty. We talked awhile, and I told her about my mission as a Trans/Intersex Activist. To my dismay she said she has never read BLACKLINES, and she wasn't aware of my column or the writing of HIV/AIDS activist,

Sanford Gaylord. I found Mercedes very interesting, and asked her for an interview. She agreed.

Mercedes is a 16-year-old transgendered teen. She says she has been aware that she is transgendered since the age of 13. "They (her family) didn't approve of it at first, now they are starting to approve of it. My cousin said since I'm starting to look more and more like a female, every time she sees me she would respect me and call me Mercedes." Mercedes goes to DuSable High School. I asked her if the students at her school accept her, she said, "Some boys mess with me, but after awhile I learned to ignore them. Some of the people (at DuSable) know me as Mercedes. My friends call me Mercedes."

Mercedes expressed an interest in taking female hormones. "It's hard for me to get consent (to take hormones) because I am a ward of the State. My guardian (her Aunt) doesn't want to give me consent to take hormones. The State won't give me consent. There was a lady that came and talked to me and told me she could fight DCFS and get my consent papers signed. They might sign them when I finish therapy (psychotherapy) or I might have to wait until I'm 18. She (her guardian/aunt) says she prefers for me not to change into a female in front of the kids. There are a lot of kids in the house. All of them (the kids) are starting to see me change slowly. My little cousin said I look pretty as a girl. It seems like the kids are starting to understand it," Mercedes said.

Turn to page 33

Black Pearls

by Sukie de la Croix

Excerpts from an interview with a 67-year-old African-American gay man

First gay bar I went to in Chicago ...

"The first bar was called the 430—they called it the dirty thirty—it was on 43rd street and that was the first one I remember growing up. That was in the '40s. It was in a Black neighborhood, but most of the merchants on the South Side were white. Most of the merchants lived out of the community in white neighborhoods but they come and make their money in the Black neighborhoods. And even though they were in the Black neighborhood they wouldn't even hire Black people. That's why they were burned out. The bar was owned by whites, but there was Blacks in there and whites coming from the North Side and the Gold Coast. There would be bums, every segment of society, and there would be women in mink coats, white women in mink coats mingling; they were there to pick up Black men. And you would have limousines drive up in front of the bar. It was a mixture but it was considered a gay bar."

The Kitty Kat ...

"That was the main bar that everybody went to, that came later, the 430 was ten years earlier. I was too young to go to the 430, we used to sit outside and watch people go in and out, but when I got older the Kitty Kat came about in the '50s. In those days the bars were more integrated, it was like a white male wanted to meet a Black woman, they would go to a gay bar. The straight people would go to the gay bars to mix the lines, you had an element of people who wanted to hide their lives. So the Kitty Kat had an amateur hour, and Hi Fi, he was a big fat drag queen, he died later on. He was in this movie *The Penitentiary*. His name was Hi-Fi and he was a big fat Black fellow who would get in drag and emcee the amateur hour on Tuesdays and Thursday nights. In the old days you could go to a lot of parties, you could pick from like ten parties you could go to on Friday and Saturday nights. Everybody was giving parties and Black people if they had jobs, or they were accomplished, would show off what they had, a new apartment, or what have you, so there were always parties. And they would all end up at the Kitty Kat; it was packed, you couldn't even get through there half the time."

The First Church of Deliverance ...

"And Rev. Cobb's church ... which was the gay church back then ... they would all pull out of Cobb's and go straight to the Kitty Kat. So the Kitty Kat was almost like a meeting ground before the evening was over on the weekend, you ended up there at the Kitty Kat."

The Parkside ...

"At 51st and Cottage Grove they had a bar called the Parkside, we would go from one to the other. They had one over in Hyde Park but it wasn't considered gay, but it was like undercover gay. It was supposed to be straight, but you know how it is. It was the House of Tiki, I think. There were a couple of places, one on 47th and one on 51st, but I can't remember the names of those, but those were sort of like ... in those days a bar could become gay by just getting a bartender, you know what I mean, or it would be a good place for cruising, and gradually you would start hanging out and picking up tricks. The bar wouldn't be gay, but gay people would go there. And there were some of those along 47th and 51st street."

Parties ...

"This is another thing that happened, it seems more progressively as gays got more opportunities, you would think they would obtain a more closeness, but actually they separated, because in the old days they depended on each other. It was against the law to even have a gay party. We used to have parties and they would be raided. If somebody wasn't invited ... there used to be a fellow named Terry Beech and he was considered to be one of the most vicious on the South Side ... he's dead now ... but if you didn't invite him, your party would be raided. In the old days it was half men and half women, lesbians and gays depended on each other. If the lesbians had a party they would invite gay fellows, and if the fellows had a party they would invite the women, because when the police raided all you did was switch partners. So they couldn't say it was a gay party. But if they came up there and found a bunch of men they'd take them all to jail, so we depended on each other. And as women became more liberated and got more rights they separated, and as a matter of fact they got to the point where they couldn't stand each other. They called each other dykes and faggots, then you began to have lesbian bars and then regular bars, but the lesbians always came to the fellow's bars. In the old days all the parties and the bars were more mixed. The separation of lesbian bars didn't come about until much later."

Memory Check: In the 1961 movie *Raisin In The Sun* starring Sidney Poitier and Claudia McNeil, there are a couple of scenes filmed in a bar. The bar used was the Kitty Kat Club—it's a rare chance to see an old Black gay bar. The play *Raisin In The Sun* was written by Chicago-born Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965), believed to be a lesbian. The play won the New York Drama Circle Award, a first for an African-American. It also marked the first time a Black woman had a play produced on Broadway.

Send your stories and information to Sukie de la Croix at BLACKLINES He also interviews over the phone or by e-mail sukie@wwa.com

Bronzeville—Back in the Day

by Charles E. Clifton

Featured this month are the words of Lester Coleman, a 72-year-old loving his retirement and now living in Philadelphia.

"I can recall back in 1942 or '43, somewhere around that time, my sister Sheila was involved in a leaflet protest campaign to stop the Jim Crow policy of the owners of the White City Skating Rink. I think it was down on Cottage Grove around 63rd. The owners of the rink had a practice of enforcing whites only and Blacks only days. I discovered that protests were organized by CORE [Committee of Racial Equality]—a group of students based at the UC—for their time I suppose you could call them radicals. Anyway, Sheila was helping pass out leaflets on the weekends in front of the rink and she recruited me and Jimmy into helping her. Jimmy was the boy I was seeing at the time.

"Yeah, I was about 15 years old and he was about 17. We had met at Washington Park one Sunday afternoon. He was my first real love. I'll never forget him. He eventually enlisted in the army, because he couldn't find a job here in Chicago. Yeah, I'll have to tell you about my different jobs after high school. As a Black man it was hard trying to find and keep a job after the war. I never heard from him [Jimmy] again after he left Chicago.

"Anyway we used to help out Shelia and her friends on Friday or Saturday nights. I guess that was really the first time I came face to face with the social inequalities—you know right there in my own neighborhood. Everyone [Blacks] was aware of the employment and educational problems we faced in this city, but this was a problem that we as young people felt like we could step up and do something about. So we did.

Turn to page 34

GURLLLology 101 thru 401 Academic Networking

by Vicky Nabors

We have recently entered the parent appreciation season with Mother's Day behind us and Father's Day just around the corner. I want to acknowledge the many lesbians out there who are both mother and father to their children. During my late teen years I realized that I wanted my own biological children, a girl and a boy. Years later, my wish materialized and currently, I have a 20-year-old daughter and a 14-year-old son that have been raised by my partner and I, and a host of lesbian and straight friends, and family. I've learned that a female can't be a male role model to her children,

especially to a son, but she can provide for many of their social needs that are traditionally provided for by the father; surrogate males have also been helpful in filling in the blanks.

I've enjoyed stepping in as 'dad' for sports activities such as Little League and Karate with both of my kids. Whew! I will never forget those little chats about life from a female/butch prospective (the sperm thing really got under my skin, but I handled it like a pro and quietly puked later). And, I thank God for a fem partner who stepped up during my daughter's teen years to do the girly stuff with her at the mall (yuck). Being a butch woman, I've come to understand I can't travel too far in the fem nor stud direction before I become uncomfortable with myself. However, I've found I'm more comfortable doing stuff with my son than my daughter.

Anyway, another reason I've traveled into the world of parenthood is because it is directly linked to my personal academic goal of becoming a professor. It has not been an easy road for me since I chose to have my own children instead of raising someone else's kids. Similarly, I've met a lot of lesbian students (young and old) who also have children and shared stories of an ongoing struggle to remain in academia to complete their degree programs. It becomes difficult at times to balance a schedule of employment and course work with being a responsible parent. There are only so many hours in each day to accomplish a multitude of goals and responsibilities, not to mention time for yourself. Unfortunately, a very good friend of mine recently dropped out of her undergrad program because of parental stress; hopefully she will be able to return in the near future. I strongly suspect that my friend probably represents many sistas who have dropped out due to overwhelming responsibilities. Kids have tons of needs and each day is unpredictable. I even met a woman who has been taking one course a semester, wow! It will take her a long time to complete her BA, but I admire her determination.

Everyone, even moms, can achieve their academic goals through various means and we must believe that all things are possible (from our religious roots), and continue to press towards that dream until it has been achieved. It is said that knowledge is power and having that power is the key to unlimited personal freedom. Isn't that why most of us go to college? I know, a lot of you want to get paid big bucks or want to make your childhood dream of a particular career become a reality. Still, in obtaining a degree you elevate your employment and earning potential well above that of moms without degrees making life a little less stressful. So, during this parent appreciation season I want to wish all of you lesbian moms a very happy Mother's and Father's Day. It is my prayer that somewhere during this season you get some well-earned time off to rest, reflect, meditate, heal, re-group, and come back fighting to get yours. Thanks to my compassionate and supportive companion, I'll get some much-needed rest too. PEACE.

Replies to vlnabors@neiu.edu or Lambda Publications.

Tired of Being Sick and Tired

d.l. sanders

The recent shootings in Colorado made me sick. I was angry at the way I watched the press call it a tragic shooting because it happened in such a good town (READ: NOT THAT MANY PEOPLE OF COLOR). It was made more tragic by the fact that the press did not report the truth. They covered up the fact that the murder was racially motivated and that it was done on Hitler's birthday as a celebration. How could this happen, they asked, and the talking heads blamed it on being loners, mistreated by peers instead of good old-fashioned American racism. That alone did not force me to sit down and write this article, it was the response from my community. I wasn't going to write this because I'm referred to enough as the angry Black man. I'm not angry—I'm passionate. But of course if I wasn't Black that would be your word of choice anyway.

I listened to Black folks say that we can't get angry or upset over racially motivated attacks, they are sick and need our prayers. They excused the press by saying they didn't want to incite a racial war if they reported that they blew off the face of Isiah Showvel and yelled, "Let's find another nigger." I see their point.

How long will we have to be the ones sitting by forgiving and praying for everyone who does wrong to us as a people.

I respect the basic principles of Dr. King. He was a man who used wisdom and knew when it was time to move to the next level. I think he would agree that our asses are sore and our praying knee worn out. I can't take any more, I'm tired of being sick and tired. For years we have sat back and forgiven them their trespasses. There comes a time when you say "enough" and take care of business.

The hatemonger, you may call me, well so what. Try to have a conversation about race relations with someone outside our community. You might hear the following things: Racism is not as bad as it used to be. You can vote just like me. You have the same opportunities as I do. My personal favorite, look Black people are just as bad, they cheered when OJ got off. Memo to the world: No one was cheering that OJ got away with murder, we were cheering because a Black man bought the same system you've been buying for years but mostly because Johnny Cochran was an exceptional lawyer that ripped apart your legal system.

I'm feeling quite revolutionary, wearing my Black Panther T-shirt and all. Shaking huh? I propose we stop praying and start fighting back. Don't go out and pick up a weapon—use the weapons they give us. Play their game better. Don't allow these sorry elected officials to be the voice for us. Quit saying that's the way it is and make it the way it should be. **Vote**—a few more votes and we would still have a Black U.S. Senator. Deprogram your friends and family who think racism is a thing of the past. Take to heart the words "by any means necessary." Make a change, we have a future to think about and a past to remember, and they don't want us to remember that past. That goes for in the gay community too. Racism doesn't end at the doorstep of boys' town. If anything it increases because they are arrogant enough to think that pink triangle makes them immune. ... It's sort of out of my system but I did write a poem that was little more, let's say colorful. Say goodnight Gracie.

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COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

ARTISTS AND HEALING ARTS Practitioners can have shared space at new North Side Urban Art Retreat location for $100 monthly rental membership. If you need a place to draw or paint, or a place to offer massage or talk therapy, call **(773) 275-1319.** Do you need meeting space or workshop space or to rent gallery space? Super affordable. *(3/99)*

DATING SERVICE

ALTERNATIVE CONNECTIONS. Chicago's serious dating service catering to professional women. Don't waste time looking for that special someone—let our personalized matching service do the looking for you! **Call (312) 802-2144.** *(5/99)*

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ Volunteer Coordinator. The Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant/ Volunteer Coordinator. Prior administrative and volunteer coordination experience necessary. Excellent writing, computer (Microsoft Word, Excel, Filemaker Pro, Quickbooks or similar software), organizational and interpersonal skills essential. Send resume and cover letter to: **LCCP, 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 602, Chicago, IL 60640. Fax 773-561-1830.** *(6/5)*

NURSE COORDINATOR: The Harambee Wellness Centre of HOWARD BROWN Health Center, the Midwest's leading gay, lesbian, and bisexual health center, seeks a Nurse Coordinator to coordinate and deliver high quality healh care services to clients, including STD testing and HIV primary care. BSN with current Illinois RN license required. 3-5 years clinical, supervisory, program planning and QI experience desirable. Ability to work with diverse clients and staff. Send resume to **C. Reid, Director of Human Resources, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613, FAX (773) 388-8887.** No calls please. EOE. *(4/99)*

FAMILY MATTERS, an award-winning, life affirming, family and community focused organization, is seeking a Director for our teen girls program. We offer a positive and supportive work environment to someone with 3-5 years' experience working with teen girls and their families. Program seeks to address emotional, spiritual and physical health needs of participants and includes mentoring, policy and community service components. Salary is competitive and benefits are excellent. Please send resume to **Kim DeLong, Executive Director, 1512 W. Juneway Terrace, Chicago 60626 or fax resume to 773-338-6335.** *(4/99)*

DPG, Inc. & P.H.A.T. (Plenty of Hips Ass & Tits) are hiring. This Plus Size (& Medium Build) Bi-Sexual Female Erotic Dance Group needs topless waitresses & dancers. Serious only **1-800-997-0447.** High self-eseteem. (4/99)

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PHOTOGRAPHY

BAD, BOLD, AND BLACK: For sampler set (8 men, 8 photos), send age (21+), signature, $10, to Zebra Studios, P.O. Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (Potential models welcome!). *(2/00)*

TRAVEL

GETAWAY COTTAGES in new Buffalo, Mich., 1-1/2 hours from Chicago. Near beach, restaurants, shopping. VCR/TV. 2 or 3 bedroom, fireplace, **(312) 287-2400; 1-800-44-ENVOY.** *(9/98)*

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $24/12 issues (hdcpy only). Malebox2@aol.com

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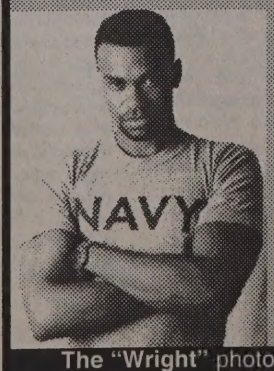

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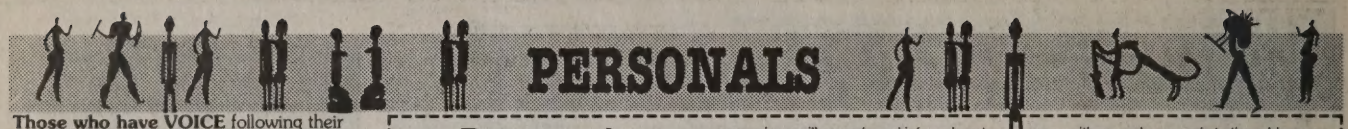

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101.

To keep your free voice box active continuously, you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.

WARNINGS: 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. **2.** Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

CODE: ISO = In Search Of

Men

Looking for love, friendship, romance, passion and more with a Black, tall skinny guy. Nice looking Mexican, 27, 150#. 100% romantic, loyal, sincere, mature, responsible, looking and acting straight. Just want someone real, no games please, photo will be appreciated, Can we try? **NL/Voice52829** *(7)*

Naked hung PGWM, 30, seeks others into nudity & long hot mutual j/o sessions, weekends are best, 24 hours. **312 661-9003VM** *(6/16)*

Sex, romance, hot top 5'9", 155#, 25 y/o, Bi BM military discreet seeks slim/skinny bottom any race under 37 y/o Page **Leo (312) 216-9101** *(7)*

Chicagoland: I'm interested to find Blacks, Bears (very hairy) and Latinos, Puerto Ricans, for passionate encounters and friendship. Me: Latino. You won't regret. No smokers. **NLBox431** *(7)*

PGBM, 5'11", 185#, 48 y/o, HIV+, alcohol/drug/smoke free, bald, pierced ears, religious, uninhibited, ISO meaningful LTR, similar. **NL Box 423** *(7)*

I know you're out there. I'm looking to meet the most huge cummers in Chicago; it's my fetish. A plus for Blacks and Hispanics, especially Puerto Ricans. Me: Latino, very passionate, hairy. I won't disappoint you. **NL425** *(7)*

Very attractive SGM, 38, successful, easy going, romantic and fun. Fuiero encontrar un hombre latino especial para una amistad o para una relación amorosa. Yo apreciariá una foto si es posible. Respond to **LPS, 6311 Fairview Ave., Suite 145, Westmont. IL. 60559** *(7)*

Dominant SBM NYC, mature honest, atheist, strict master, sane, friendly, seeks Black/Latina submissive female 24+ to serve me. NYC nearby. (No phonies, D/D, smokers.) Maids, rollerbladers welcome! Photo, phone. **NLBox 429** *(8)*

WOMEN

Cute, fun-loving, clean, single, spiritual, non-smoking, employed, very oral woman ISO the same in a femme. Please 2yrs or more experience. 25-35 yrs. To receive a friend and future lover call **(773) 226-9045.** Press 1, leave number, Press 2, leave name and number. please no bi's. *(7)*

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
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- ▼ If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages. (773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

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Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
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Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

Something wonderful, attractive, single, sexy, intelligent 36 yrs old, 128#, Black American female. Very down to earth. Enjoys movies, plays, concerts, all music. fine dining, stimulating conversation, long walks, etc. ISO single, attractive , thin, female over 5', with similar qualities. Age and race unimportant. **Page (312) 562-0353** *(7)*

GWPF feminine n/x extremely fun, energetic, physically fit, intelligent and very romantic with interest too abundant to list. ISO same kidd of adrenaline junkie who thinks she can keep up! Open/honest communication a must. Lets live out loud and attack life together! **Voice 52842** *(7)*

Cute soft stud, earthy, spontneous and caring. Seeks an extremely feminine woman preferably with short hair, 40-60 yrs. Must be energetic and open-minded. Non smoker , no drugs, no bis. **Beeper 773 226-2108** *(7)*

GBF 40+ professional, playful, serious, about success and in search of more out of life — would love to share a stress free, fun filled summer with employed, self assured, drug and disease free spirit(s). No bisexuals, gay experienced preferred. If you are 35-50 years young and want to live in the present and enjoy each moment to the fullest, do not hesitate write or e-mail me at **aol.com.LOKN4LUV1** *(7)*

Sexy, passionate femme who is new to the life. ISO studs who are 24 and up who are willing to show me the ropes. I can be reached at **(773) 201-8389.** I will respond to all calls. *(5/19)*

Don't get us wrong, we love our child... But are u tired of entertaining your kids? Guess what? We are too... Wanted: sisters with children for picnics, ball games and gettogethers. Please call us. We need friends who can relate. Signed, Stuck at Home with Kids **(312) 696-6784** *(7)*

GWF, 29, intelligent, honest, attractive fit, laid-back, eclectic tastes, ISO intelligent, attractive GW 28+ who demands honesty and integrity; values communication and intimacy and believes all relationship should foster happiness, sharing and growth. Let's enjoy life, each other, and have fun. **Voice52822** *(6)*

Do you read books? Well, join us for refreshment and book discussions. Any book from Seuss to Warhol. Let's get literate. Race, age or gender unimportant, but female couples are a plus. **Call (312) 696-6784.** *(6)*

We are a female couple with a daughter. We are seeking other parents with children for social gatherings. Race not important. Call **(312) 696-6784** *(6)*

Hey you! Yeah, I'm talking about you, sugar. If you're a loving Black "dark complexion" soft stud who is age 37-49, over 5'1", under 5'9", slim to medium build, independent, intelligent, single, drug, alcohol and disease free; let's talk. Oh, by the way, I'm an attractive, independent, intelligent, drug-, alcohol-, and smoke-free, 5'1", 188#, slightly past 48 year old SBF. Why don't you beep me? **773 849-0915** *(6)*

GHF single non-smoker, seeking special permanent relationship. Enjoy movies, dining out, dance, picnics, walks, quiet times, theatre, etc. etc. The affectionate and caring can write directly to **NL 216** (8/29)

SBM 39 5'11" 200# seeks female Bi, clean, attractive, pretty feet. Race open, 20-50, 130 -600#. **Voice 52809** *(6)*

Former punkette/artista, now 36, persnickety, routinized, lazy, anti-social, anti-consumerist crank (still kinda pretty) seeks empathetic perceiver: underlying logic/beauty residing biking distance/Lakeview. Physical preferences: fit, firm, no cat allergies. Curvaceousness A+. I'm 5'8", 151, buffed, vegetarian. Interests: arts, bicycling, kayaking, moderate partying, health, consciousness. **Voice 52818** *(6)*

Mix & Match

Swinging couples, single @ bi-curious females. Still searching four couple for erotic fun, you can stop looking now. You've thought about it, so let's do it. Race open. Call for hot times . You will not be sorry e-mail **Bud2225716aol.com** *(6)*

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Advice with an attitude!

Take a Stand, MAN

What's up, readers. Traditionally, June has been designated as Pride month. So, my Brothers this column is for us! When developing this column a couple things have been running rampant into my consciousness. What are we doing for pride? What is true Manhood? What's that all about?

As I was pondering these questions driving into work on Lake Shore Drive, I waited in congestive traffic. As I waited, I decided to turn on the radio. As I was flipping channels, I recognized the familiar voice booming from the speaker. "In the News ... " the male voice quipped. It was Tom Joyner. "What in hell is he talking about, now?" I questioned. Tom continued, "A gay business man from Boston is marketing a Gay Beer ...." Tom and his cohorts, Jaye Anthony Brown and Sybil Wilkes, broke out in laughter immediately and was trippin'out regarding this little juicy tidbit of news.

"Could you imagine?" One of them added.

"I guess it will be a LITE Beer!!" Sybil chuckles. "Can you imagine, Player? What if you were REAL thirsty and this beer, this GAY beer was the cheapest beer? What would you do? Would you go and buy one?" Tom continuing his laughter.

"DAMN! I'll probably go and buy one! I'll just cover it up or better yet, I'll have to get MELVIN to go out and buy THOSE!" Jaye comments. (For those who may not know, Melvin is the flamboyant gay male personality on the Tom Joyner show on Friday mornings.)

Their laughter and the slapping of fives for a job well done, with this news commentary assaulted my soul. The continued congratulations of one another cut my spirit like a knife!! You know the same people would be up in arms if someone made a crack like this about Black folks or Black straight women!! Now, my anger escalates. Now, I really began to wonder. How many other Black gay and bisexual males were listening to this nationally syndicated show, I thought to myself. Better yet, how may other Black folks agree with this sentiment? My anger bubbles and rises like a pressure cooker, steaming quickly out of control!

SO, What are you trying to say, Mr. Joyner? Gay men are not real men? Is that it? I hope someone will make a call. Yeah, maybe another gay brother will call in to the radio show and read these idiots; reclaim our collective dignity, I thought to myself. Gay and Bisexual brothers will not stand for this invalidation. Someone must call and yell, "Yeah, Tom: Why not a gay beer?!? While we're at it, why are you questioning my Manhood? My Maleness?"

I wait and I wait while sitting in congested traffic for that phone call. IT Never Came In. The issue faded away as quickly as the next song began. Soon, the traffic freed up a bit and I began to move. The disgruntled laughter served as an immediate reminder of how far we still need to go in many communities regarding sensitivity to GLBT issues. As I continued to venture down the freeway, it dawned on me that it was my responsibility to make that phone call! Why was I waiting on someone else to reclaim my own dignity?

In order for any progress to be made regarding negative attitudes and perceptions, more gay and bisexual brothers of all persuasions (from femme to butch) must dare to take a stand by becoming more visible! However, it starts with just one person standing up for what is right. After all, isn't that what true MANHOOD should be all about? Taking care of your own business?!? When there are so many things going on concerning African-American gay and bisexual men, we need to be at the forefront regarding our business. Our health, lives, loves, and brotherhood is our responsibility and we must take ownership of them. Our challenge is to exhibit conscientious pride all year long by standing up for our lives and speaking out. Take some satisfaction in the work that you are doing to make this a better community for all. Gay and bisexual PRIDE, when you come right down to it, is only of value when it is put into action. After all, brother, isn't it about time to take a stand, for the true man you are? As always, Peace and love, Readers. Have a safe and productive pride month. Comments? Questions? Send me your vibes @ PrestonMSW@aol.com.

TRANS from 28

With so many organizations reaching out to LesBiGayTrans teenagers, I asked Mercedes "Is it effective. Do Black teenagers realize there are a lot of resources available to them?" She replied: "I really don't think they realize that, because it seems like they don't care. They try to make it seem like it's all about them, that no one cares."

Throughout the interview, Mercedes impressed me with her knowledge of self, and determination to be her true self. I asked Mercedes what did she want to be when she grows up. "What I want to be when I grow up," she said, "is a run-way Super Model, as a female or in PLAYBOY magazine. Nothing sexual, just posing—of course after the surgery—I don't consider myself transgendered. I consider myself a heterosexual woman. I want to be a youth advocate for teenagers. There are a lot of teenagers that are scared to come out, or don't know how to come out. I'd like to be able to talk to them about it. I'll tell them to do what's best for them. Do what they think will make them happy. My Aunt Juliana and her husband Nathan are good to me, and have been helpful in my coming out."

With the spread of HIV & AIDS in the Black community, I asked Mercedes if she practices safe sex, and she said yes. I then asked if she thinks the majority of Black gay/trans teenagers are practicing safe sex. "Probably half practice safe sex, the other half don't," Mercedes said. "Some say they don't care—that it doesn't feel good with a condom on. What needs to be done is organizations that help teenagers need to advertise more. I used to see advertisements on the bus and El; I don't see them anymore."

More and more LesBiGayTrans teenagers are coming out. Some don't know about the resources which are available to them. Like Mercedes said, there aren't much advertisements that let the teenagers know that there are places they can go for help. We all need to do more to reach our gay/trans brothers and sisters. Before it's too late.

Lynnell Stephani is a Trans/Intersex Activist. Email her at TSReporter@aol.com or visit http://members.aol.com/INTERSEXx

World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Site-Seeing

And without further ado, here are some sites of interest: KUMA (http://www.members.tripod.com/~Versai/title.htm) stands for Kissing Passionately, Undulating Hips, Mouthwatering, Aching Desire — and with a title like that, you know it's not about cooking. This site, devoted to black lesbian erotica, has pages like "Cherry's Games" and "The Steam Room," so what are you waiting for?

BLAKOUT.NET (http://www.blackout.ee/) is a virtual city for black lesbians, gays, and transgendered people. The three main sections are Blakout Central, Northwest Blakout (which includes Chicago), and Northeast Blakout. After registering, you can check out mailing lists, enter the Coffee Room, or respond to personals.

For those who like to "swirl," there's the site devoted to the National Association of Black & White Men Together (http://www.nabwmt.com/). Find out about the group (although the name would seem to make its mission evident) and feel free to obtain information about chapters and upcoming events.

Rainbow Flava (http://www.rainbowflava.com) is a site devoted to the eponymous San Francisco-based group which is an element of the ever-expanding queer hip-hop scene. You can find out about its members, look at photos, and even download audio samples. A related site is called Hip-Hop Headz (http://www.lamancha-video.com/pages/hiphop.htm) and provides an intriguing look at the link between the "b-boy style and the aggressive sexual energy of the queer world." There's also a mention of certain hip-hop artists who have been rumored (and ONLY rumored) to be gay.

Lastly, BlackBusiness—Homepage Bottom (http://www.blackbusiness.com/homebot.htm) is a comprehensive resource for African Americans involved in large and small business. Despite the provocative title, it's for people of all orientations.

▼▼▼▼▼

Contact me at gemini1@nwu.edu.

HISTORY from 29

"The gay thing? I didn't really know what 'gay' meant back then. I wasn't attracted to girls, you know in a sexual way. I knew that I liked to 'mess' around with the boys and they liked to mess with me. So I did it. Right there on my block—one day I could be hiding in the basement with some boy and the next day he would be hanging on the corner with his pals and they would be calling me a sissy. That was confusing and it made me angry. I think my parents knew, because Jimmy used to sleep over a lot, but they never said anything. It was kind of like that Clinton policy—don't ask don't tell—except I never really felt like I was doing anything wrong. It was natural for me. The most amazing thing my father ever said to me—and this was after I told them I was a homosexual—he said to me, 'who you sleep with is your business, you are our child and we will always support you.'

"I think in the long run the name calling made me stronger—sissy, faggot, nigger—I worked harder, held my head higher, became more determined. At some point the race thing and the homosexual thing kind of merged together for me. I was, I am a Black man who is a homosexual—and the people who knew me best and who I worked with every day respected me for how I carried myself and my commitment to the movement. I didn't have to hide my homosexuality, but I didn't wear it on my sleeve either. I think the turning point for me—as far as when I became actively involved with the civil rights movement here in Chicago, was when Emmett Till was killed in Mississippi."

Charles Clifton currently is working on a book entitled, 'Another Country': Race, Culture and the Politics of AfroHomosexuality in Bronzeville, 1940-1972. Send your stories to Charles Clifton c/o of BLACKLINES. He can also be reached via phone (773) 363-7170 or by e-mail cclifton@midway.uchicago.edu

CHICAGO BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

Chicago will host its first Black Pride Festival, "Independence '99," July 1-5. This weekend will be an annual gathering celebrating the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bi-affectionate and Transgender community in the Windy City. The theme is "Coming2GetherAs1." Call 773-288-2078 ; chicagoblackpride@yahoo.com or www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Café/2381/.

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs....312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a) 312 W. Randolph, W,D,V....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D, 1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-395-8660
K.C. Productions at Cotton Club, Sundays....312-341-9787
MENAGE 738 N. Clark, 2nd flr, MWS 312-932-9289
THE RAILS AT PROP HOUSE, 1675 N. Elston, MW,D, TheRails@aol.com....708-802-1705
THE VIX: A Jazz Supperclub, 2814 N. Halsted MW,D,R,GS 773-529-3999

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R....773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark....773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun. ..312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4....773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D....773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 312-409-0276
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V....773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D....773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4, (5a Fri/Sat)....847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649....312-409-7609
African American Womyn's Alliance....773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans Performers www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread....312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES 1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com P.O. Box 496024. Chicago 60649
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network) Programming 773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent...773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays, P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181....312-409-4917
Chicago Black Pride ....773-288-2078 chicagoblackpride@yahoo.com
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band 773-381-6693
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 ..773-778-3030 Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clyboum, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent ..773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642 Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen 708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men....773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery....773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies....312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago,PO Box 408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928 1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum....202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Phrasority *parties for all lesbians and gays*....312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital....773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program 1718 E. 75th St., 60649....773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support ..773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois....847-625-7263
TransGenesis trans support....312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120

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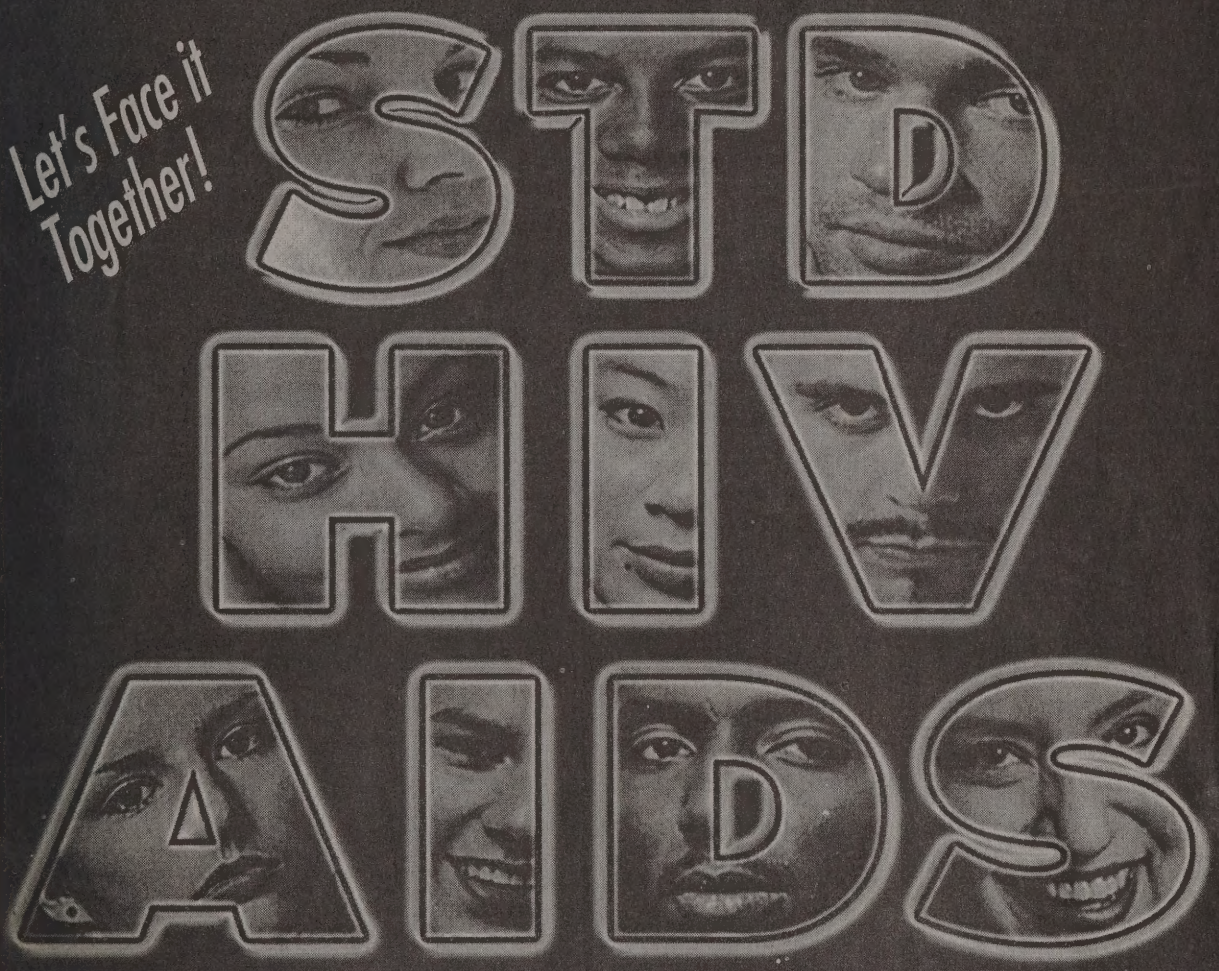

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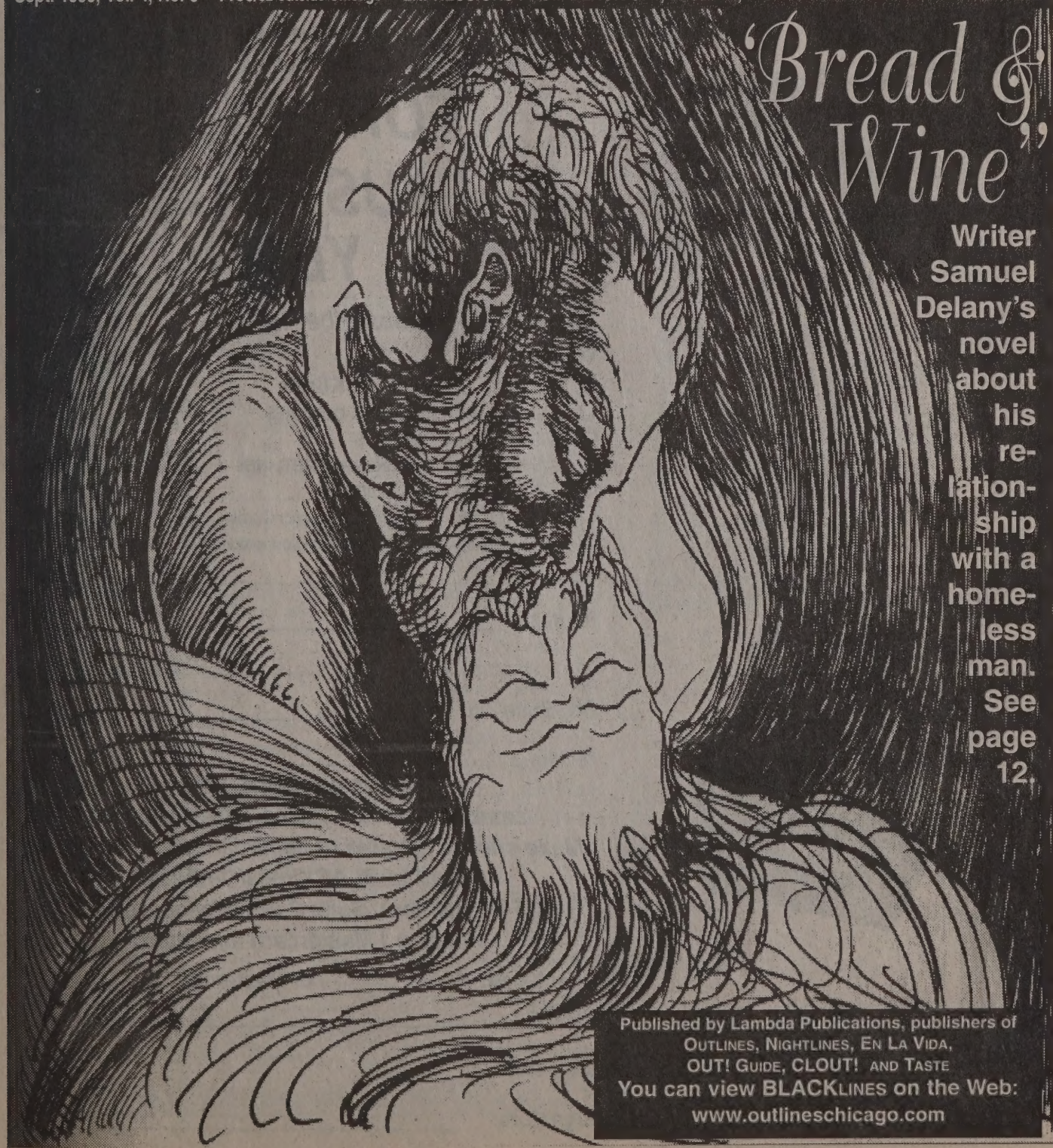

"Bread & Wine"

Writer Samuel Delany's novel about his relationship with a homeless man. **See page 12.**

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September 1999
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Managing Coordinator
La Jaunessee Jordan

Senior News Reporter
Robert Schultz

Photography Israel Wright, Brian McGee, Lynnell S. Long, R. Glanton

Art/Design:
Otis Richardson

Editorial Contributors:
Vicky Nabors, Janice Layne, Harry Tyner, Andrew Davis, Jon Dallas, Lynnell S. Long, Cain Berlinger, Kathleen Rose Winter, Preston Schumaker, Lester Davis, Shamara Riley, Jean Pierre Campbell, C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Charles Clifton, Dwayne Sanders, Vernita Gray, Rhonda Mundhank, J., Samantha Mattox, Byron Stewart, Sherri Jackson, Donna Rose, Patricia Mickey, Leslie D. McClellan.

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Tracy Baim

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Terri S. Klinsky, Kathleen Ulm
Israel Wright, Daniel Finley, Robert Schultz

Editorial: D. Jean Albright
Administrative: Raven Rodriguez, John Pennycuff

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: **outlines@suba.com**

World Wide Web: outlineschicago.com

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BLACKlines

is on the World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

See page 12 for a review of Delany's new autobiographical novel—a comic book adventure.

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Growing Pains at Black Leadership Forum

by Robert Schultz

Jubi Headley confirmed with BLACKLINES that Willa Taylor has resigned as the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum's board chair. In an Aug. 18 phone interview with BLACKLINES, Headley indicated that, as yet, no official letter had been received from Taylor.

In Headley's position as board chair elect he is to serve the remainder of Taylor's term, which was slated to end February 2001. Willa Taylor announced her intention to resign a month ago, THE WASHINGTON BLADE reported.

"As of today we are planning to host the Chicago conference," Headley said. The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum's annual February conference is scheduled to be held in Chicago in the year 2000. The Chicago conference is to be the next in a series of a dozen annual conferences that have been successfully staged in cities around the country. Many of the activists in Chicago's Black LGBT community have attended one or more of the previous events and are anticipating some degree of involvement in February's event.

Headley indicated that a management team is leading the Forum and that in addition to the conference the group's local AIDS initiative in California is still alive. There is no full-time national staff, however. The management team is leading the organization through a 24-month rebuilding period that focuses on fiscal and other organizational issues. THE WASHINGTON BLADE named Michael Piper, Eric Flavors, Brenda Crawford, Karen Sebastian, Ken Reeves, Ron Johnson, and John Harrison as members of the team. Ken Reeves was the featured cover story in the April 1997 BLACKLINES when Reeves was one of the keynote speakers at that year's UNITY conference. Headley also affirmed that the Forum certainly will be a presence during the annual Congressional Black Caucus held every September. Headley said it was "no secret" that keeping the Forum financially solvent remains a challenge. Stating that the exploration of "new ways" to meet the challenge were underway, Headley declined to elaborate further.

Ken Reeves told THE WASHINGTON BLADE that "the Forum wouldn't be doing its job if our plans depended on one person." Reeves also told THE WASHINGTON BLADE that outside the Capital the Forum has more supporters than critics. Headley said that the local work justifies what the Forum does nationally. When asked what could the average member of the Black LGBT community do to support the movement, Headley suggested supporting the activities of local groups. Headley gave an unsolicited nod to the work of Chicago Black Lesbian Gays and Lesbians. Headley urged groups and individuals to continue to bring ideas to the Forum to "inform our forward movement."

The Forum's most pregnant moment was in 1998 when Headley followed former White House official and author Keith Boykin in the position of the group's executive director. THE WASHINGTON BLADE reports that the Forum's budget peaked at $850,000 under Boykin. The June 1998 BLACKLINES carried a late bulletin noting Headley's abrupt departure due to the group's inability to pay his salary.

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum is the most prominent of the currently active Black LBGT organizations. As inheritors of a history of Black gay activism that dates back to 1925 when Alain Locke was an influential member of the national Black elite, the Forum has brought members of the Black LBGT family together and been its national voice for more than a decade. Locke, a Black gay man, is remembered in an essay "Becoming a Movement" by Rodney Christopher. Christopher's essay is published in the recently released *Fighting Words: Personal Essays by Black Gay Men*. Christopher reminds the reader that Locke is one of a long line of Black gay and lesbian activists. Christopher's essay and the recently resurfaced Black gay periodical BLACKLIGHT (as a website www.blacklightonline.com), each recall how prior to the Forum's creation there was the National Coalition of Black Gays (later the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays). During the October 1979 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the NCBLG hosted The First Third World Gay Conference for African, Native, Asian and Hispanic American Gay Men and lesbians. The conference was stirred to action by author Audre Lorde and participants marched through the Black community to the Mall to join the main march.

Like the NCBLG in the 1980s, the Forum has played a pivotal role in both the Black and gay communities during this decade. The key question for the Forum is whether it will continue to be viable as national group into the next century.

Schultz is a steering committee member of CBLG.

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LaJaunessee's editorial will return next month.

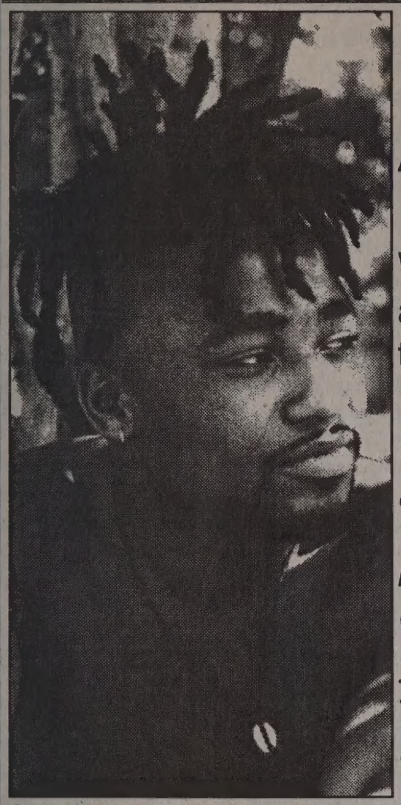

Photo By: Israel Wright

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Sistah Calendar promo photo

Les Femmes Amies plans *Sistah Celebration 2000 Calendar*

As the millennium approaches, Les Femmes Amies decided to start the party early. They are hard at play producing Sistah Celebration 2000, a calendar reflecting the beauty and diversity of Chicago's lesbian communities of color. A portion of proceeds from calendar sales will benefit three health-centered organizations: The Chicago Women's AIDS Project, the Chicago Women's Health Center, and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project.

"Women of color are disproportionately affected by serious health issues, particularly cancer and HIV/AIDS. The LCCP, the CWHC, and the CWAP are each excellent community-based organizations that provide services for women warriors fighting serious health challenges," said Natalie Hutchison, calendar coordinator. Her calendar co-creator, Tonya Gilbert added, "We feel it's important to celebrate those organizations that sustain us. We want them to be able to continue their important, difficult work. The calendar is a fun way to support [these organizations] and increase lesbian of color visibility."

Sistah Celebration 2000 will be published in October 1999 for distribution throughout the Chicagoland area and nationally. The 8.5 x 11-inch calendar will feature black and white photography, resources, and information for use throughout Y2K. Les Femmes Amies is offering a special introductory price of $13 for orders received by Sept. 15. If you would like to order a calendar or advertise in the calendar, contact Tonya Gilbert or Natalie Hutchison at (773) 333-9725. They may also be reached at lesfemmes@hotmail.com.

Awarding news

Two productions by the African-American lesbigay troupe **A Real Read** have been nominated for **Black Theatre Alliance Awards. Dr. Shirlene Holmes** was nominated for ***A Lady And A Woman,*** for Best original Play or Adaptation. **Byron Stewart** was nominated for Leading Actor in a Play, for ***Conversation With A Diva.*** **Elizabeth Shivers** was nominated for Leading Actress in a Play, for *A Lady and A Woman.*

Dr. Shirlene Holmes

Rails to host special events

by Robert Schultz

Two special live performances that feature the intersection between dance oriented house and the more spiritual genre of gospel are scheduled for The Rails nightclub in September. DJ Ron Carroll will premier his group Testament on Sunday, Sept. 5, and Sharon Pass will perform Sept. 3. Both performers have strong Chicago connections and will use their respective dates to showcase their CD singles.

Sharon Pass's date at the Rails will also be an "Awareness Benefit" for the local Black lesbian group Affinity. The event gives Affinity additional exposure to the predominately Black gay male following that frequents The Rails.

According to The Rails partner Eric Cabbler, the special performances and benefits at the club demonstrate the "market value" of the Black gay community and its entertainment venues. Heretofore the Rails worked with other community groups to promote their activities and Cabbler indicated the willingness to do so in the future.

Chicago native Sharon Pass is the daughter of former Earth, Wind, and Fire percussionist Leon Pass. In 1998 Sharon hit the top 5 of the European dance charts with her release "Just Say the Word." The song was a collaboration with producer Steve "Silk" Hurley. Hurley received a 1998 Dance Music Grammy nomination for the effort. At the Rails performance, Sharon will feature her latest effort "Go Down Moses," a collaboration with WGCI-FM personality Kelli G. "Go Down Moses" puts a contemporary spin on the familiar spiritual.

Currently Sharon said that she is collaborating with others in song writing. In the future she hopes to expand beyond pop performance into acting and perhaps commercials. Pass is also "woodshedding" on the piano, an instrument she's played since her youth, with the intention of incorporating it into her act. Pass takes the stage at 1 a.m. during The Rails' Friday night stand on Sept. 3. The cover is $8; a portion goes to Affinity.

Ron Carroll has been spinning for 16 years. Carroll's work as a DJ has taken him to London, Amsterdam, and beyond. Six years ago Ron started to work his skills in gay clubs and he has become one of the local gay community's favorite DJs.

Carroll had previously promised several gospel singers that he would go into the studio with them and produce some tracks. Instead of keeping the promise with each individual Ron was able to get keep his promise and get them to collaborate on a single cut. The Testament group is composed the singers Rev. Thomas Adams, Avery Bey, Bryant Lee, and Kenyatta James. The three men and one woman vocal group's gospel house "It Is Well" updates a tune pulled from the "old gospel hymnbook" said Carroll. When released in late September the CD single will feature six remixes including a "super remix" by New York producer Lenny Fontana. Testament will perform during the Sunday night Rails party Sept. 5 and will take the stage at midnight. The cover is $8. The Rails is located at 1675 N. Elston Ave. and for more information about the events call 708-802-1705.

Ruth Ellis on film

Black lesbian activist Ruth Ellis is now 100 and Chicago filmmaker Yvonne Welbon has created a film about her life, *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*. The Chicago premiere will be at the Black Harvest Film Festival at the Film Center at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago on Saturday, Aug. 28, 1999. There will be a second screening on the following day at the Film Center.

Ruth Ellis will be present at both screenings which are being co-sponsored by Gerber/Hart Library.

The film chronicles Ruth's life through interviews, memories of friends, photographs, archival footage and vivid dramatic recreations of her past.

Beja James plays Ruth Ellis, C.C. Carter is "Babe," Ruth's long-time love, and several members of A Real Read are in the film. Other locals that can be spotted in the film are Jackie Anderson, Vernita Gray, Janice Layne and LaJaunessee Jordan (yes, that's me).

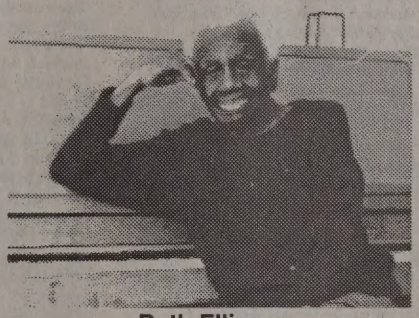
The recreation scenes are shot in 16mm and super 8 film. Actual archival and newsreel footage is used to contextualize the social, political and technological changes that Ruth Ellis has witnessed.

Ruth, who lives in Detroit, loves to dance and this writer has witnessed her dance for about an hour and a half with only one short break for a soft drink—that was at age 98. Ruth does the Electric Slide and does not miss a step.

"I'm just a common ordinary person who has enjoyed life," Ruth said. "I never had a lot of money. I never had a lot of nice clothes and things but I've just been happy."

Born July 23, 1899, in Springfield, Ill., Ruth Ellis is the oldest "out" African-American lesbian known.

Chicago lesbian writer, producer, director Yvonne Welbon worked hard with Ellis as an on-looker as each scene was taped, often nodding in approval and smiling. Welbon's films and videos work to create a stronger media presence for African-American women. Her award-winning films have been screened on cable, public television, at universities and community centers, and in film and video festivals around the world. She has written, directed and produced *The Cinematic Jazz of Julie Dash* (1992-93), *Sisters in the Life: First Love* (1993) and several others. She has completed all work towards a doctorate in Radio/TV/Film at Northwestern University.



Ruth Ellis.
Photo by Catherine Crouch.

Saturday, Aug. 28: Black Harvest Film Festival presents *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*, a film about an African American lesbian at the age of 100 by Yvonne Welbon, screening at 8 p.m. at the Film Center at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a second screening Sunday, Aug. 29 at 4 p.m. Call (312) 443-3734 for details.

Cruising 4

because we care

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would like to thank our volunteers, sponsors, staff, and our community in helping to make
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Special thanks to Michelle Crisanti of MC2 Design Consortium for the wonderful invites and ads, Richard Asch and Grace Restaurant for the fabulous kickoff party, Debra Elmy of Odyssey Cruises, Deba Grey (formerly of Sotheby's Chicago), Congress Printing, and Amy Walsh and Michelle Darrow for their help!

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 25

"Better Than Chocolate" Screening 7pm Pipers Alley, 1608 N. Wells. Tickets $5 @ Outlines , Women & Children First & at the door. Pre-show live sampling from upcoming Chgo Lesbian Music CD & chances to win Alanis & Tori tickets @ World Music Theatre on Sep. 11.

Metro presents Moby w/Boom Boom Satellites 9pm.

Thursday, August 26

Affinity Volunteer Orientation 6:30pm, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Berlin TPAN's "Raffle Night" Free pizza. 954 W. Belmont (773) 348-4975

Chicago MSA Sign-up for Thu. night bowling league at Marigold Bowl, 828 W. Grace 6-8pm (312) 409-7932

Group Catalyst Inc. hosts a two part training course open to anyone who is HIV-positive and to their HIV-negative partners thru Aug. 29th and again Sep. 8-12th. (312) 957-9073

Illinois Gay Rodeo's 1999 Windy City Rodeo held at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake thru Aug. 30th to benefit AIDSCare, Chicago House, The Children's Place Assoc., Direct AID, LCCP & Windy City PAWS. More info call Russell (773) 529-4962

Friday, August 27

Affinity hosts "It's A Play Thang" 7pm, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Amigas Latinas host Parenting & Custody Issues Workshop presented by Lambda Legal Defense & Education fund at the New Puerto Rican Cultural Center. More info (312) 409-5697

Chicago MSA Sign-up for Fri. night bowling league at Marigold Bowl, 828 W. Grace 6-8pm (312) 409-7932

Hoxie's "Sweet Accord" w/Amy Matheny & Elain Dame, a folk/country duo featuring music of Shawn Colvin, Etheridge, Mitchell, Wynonna & more. Downstairs of Hoxie's 1801 W. Lawrence 9pm

Timber Lanes Bowling Leagues Friday Night Women's League registration 7pm, 1851 W. Irving Pk. (773) 625-6555

Saturday, August 28

11th "Viva Chicago" Latin Music Festival Grant Park: Armando Manzanero & Grupo Bryndis thru Aug. 29 11:30am-10pm each day. Also featuring Tito Nieves, Brenda K. Starr, Eduardo Partida, Giselle, Cecilia Infante & Los Trio Panchos. More info call (312) 744-3370

Black Harvest Film Festival presents *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*, a film about an African American lesbian at the age of 100 by Yvonne Welbon, a Chicago Lesbian Filmmaker. Screening at 8pm at the Film Center at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a second screening for Sun, Aug. 29 at 4pm. Co-sponsored by the Gerber/Hart Library. Mor info contact Elizabeth Castro after July 1 at (312) 443-3734.

Dance for Life benefit for Howard Brown Health Center & Dance for Life Fund. Joffrey Ballet, Trinity Irish Dance Company, Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago. Navy Pier. (773) 388-8992.

Sunday, August 29

1999 National HIV Prevention Conference through the 1st.Atlanta, Ga. (404) 639-8895

ALMA Annual Picnic at Belmont Rocks 1pm. Food, games, sports.

Lakeside Pride Freedom Band Rehearsals for 1999/2000 concert season at People's Church, 941 W. Lawrence 7-9pm. (773) 381-6693

LCCP's Cruising Because We Care. 4th Annual Jazz Brunch, live jazz & auction.Odyssey at Navy Pier 561-4662.

Prairie Moon Farewell Party / Auction of Memorabilia 12-5pm. Silent auction offerings will be ready for viewing and bidding on Aug. 22. 864 E. Northwest Hwy, Mt. Prospect (847) 342-9608

Star Plaza Theatre Natalie Cole TIX (773) 734-7266.

Monday, August 30

WTTW Channel 11 Presents award winning film *It's Elementary*, which shows real examples of school activities, faculty meetings, and classroom discussions about lesbian and gay issues, proving that schools can address gay issues in age appropriate ways. Check local listings

Tuesday, August 31

GLSEN Chicago presents Rev. Gregory Dell "Taking A Stand" 7-9pm at the Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave. For more info (773) 792-4140.

Wednesday, Sept. 1

BEHIV "The Shopping Benefit" Day long event to benefit BEHIV and other non-profit agencies at Bloomingdale's in Old Orchard and Chicago (Michigan Ave). (847) 475-2115

Dance Africa Chicago 99 "Sankofa: Looking Back to go Forward" Community Breakfast 8-9am in Events Center on 7th flr,Columbia College, 111 North State St. (312) 663-1600

Montreal, Canada 2nd conference on Global Strategies for the Prevention of HIV Transmission from Mothers to Infants. Sept 1-5. (514) 868-1999. www.GlobalStrategies.org.

"Violence No Longer for Victims Only" Display of books & articles demonstrates how violence cuts across society's dividing lines, harming more than its immediate victims; at Chgo Public Library, 6110 W. Irving Pk thru Sep. 30 (312) 744-6222

Thursday, Sept. 2

21st Chicago Jazz Festival thru Labor Day Weekend. Tommy Flanagan, Johnny Griffin & Phil Woods with performances at Chicago Cultural Center & Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park. For times and locations call (312) 744-3370

Affinity Healthy Women Night "Identifying & Treating Anxiety & Depression" w/Lugenia Bailey 7pm at Affinity Community Services, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Women & Children First presents Michele Weldon, *I Closed My Eyes: Revelations of a Battered Woman* at 7:30pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

WTTW Ch. 11 Clintons welcome Patti LuPone, Jennifer Holliday, Brian Stokes Mitchell and James Naughton to perform at the White House. 8pm

Friday, Sept. 3

DuSable Museum hosts African Festival of the Arts 11am-10pm in Washington Park, 55th & Cottage Grove (773) 947-0600

Heartland Alliance & PRIDE Institute Announce AIDS Walk Benefit dance at Charlie's Chicago, 3726 N. Broadway at 8:30pm (773) 907-4595

The Rails @ The Prop House present National Circuit DJ Sedrick, the District Mother & Hip Hop DJ Steve Miggedy Maestro. Also, live performance by Sharon Pass. 1675 N. Elston (708) 802-1705 (info line) Club (773) 486-2086. Portion of proceeds to benefit Affinity.

Star Plaza Theatre Doobie Brothers Merrillville, Ind. for TIX (773) 734-7266.

Temptations Annual Picnic 5-10pm. Tap beer, food, DJ. 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Prk (847) 455-0008

Saturday, Sept. 4

Adodi Chicago A gathering for men of African descent who love other men at 1255 S. Wabash, 2pm (312) 458-9584.

BEHIV "Healthier Men 2000 Discussion Group" for African American men 6:30-8pm Free meal served. 1648 W. Howard (773) 761-6214

CAN TV21 Series "Labor Beat" presents *Primetime Labor*, a showcase of workers' struggles in Chgo and around the country, 6-11pm. Also on **CAN TV19** *The Future of Chicago Public Housing*. Phillip Jackson, new Chief Executive Officer of the CHA discusses issues in this special presentation at 2 and 7pm.

Club Escape Chef Tania hosts "A White Heat Affair", 1565 E. 75th St 9pm-3am. Buffet, adult entertainment, parking available. More info (773) 581-9457

Star Plaza Theatre The Isley Brothers plus Regina Belle (773) 734-7266.

Sunday, Sept. 5

6th Festival of Potluck Foods Picnic w/desserts & live entertainment. Prepare & share your favorite family dish for eight from 1-6pm at the Hans Christian Anderson Center, 824 N. Hayes, Oak Park (708) 524-8387

Athena Production's 5th Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest in DeKalb, IL, 11am (815) 748-5359, www.mwautumnfest.com. Entertainment - Ferron, Nedra Johnson, Lucie Blue Tremblay, CC Carter, Carolyn Law, Melanie B an Bad Girl

Historic Pullman Foundation "Lucy Parsons: Rebel Woman for Labor" Dramatic presentation by Alma Washington, 11141 S. Cottage Grove Ave, 3pm (773) 785-3828.

The Rails @ The Prop House *Testament* Record Release Party, DJ Mazzi with DJ Steve Miggedy Maestro, 1675 N. Elston (773) 486-2086

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) meet for brunch. (773) 784-8922 or (773) 235-5847.

West Suburban Gay Association (WSGA) Labor Day Potluck Elk Grove. (630) 512-0100.

Wigstock 15th Anniversary in NYC's West Village 2pm-10:30pm. All day outrageous drag festival. (212) 439-5139

WTTW Channel 11 "Can't Stop Singing" celebrates a melting pot of musical style, combining European hymn-singing traditions w/African American improvisational harmonies. 12:30-2pm

Tuesday, September 7

Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce hosts Howard Brown's Alternative Employment Program designed to place those living with HIV/AIDS in employment positions within the community. Held at Ann Sather, 929 W. Belmont 7am-8:30pm and includes sit-down breakfast. RSVP (773) 871-4190.

UIC Unity in Community "Claiming the Promise" 7-wk seminar (thru Oct. 19) series explores how Christian Bible portrays homosexuality & how Christian churches use and misuse these texts. At Agape House, 1046 W. Polk St. (312) 413-9862 or (312) 668-2676.

Wednesday, September 8

Gerber-Hart Library & Archives offers a 4wk "Writing Yourself" workshop 7-8:30pm 1127 W. Granville Call to register (773) 381-8030. Also Sep. 15, 22, 29.

Group Catalyst Inc. hosts a two part training course open to anyone who is HIV-positive and to their HIV-negative partners thru Sep. 12th. For info or to register (312) 957-9073

Navy Pier 13th Entrepreneurial Woman's Conference. "Women-Owned Businesses Shape the New Century." Women's business & buyer's mart, awards breakfast, forum luncheon& panel discussions. $110. 7:30a-6:30p. (312) 853-3477, ext. 45.

Unity Month "Seared Dreams: A Forum on the Hate Movement into the Year 2000" at Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Ave & Delaware St. at 7:30pm (312) 456-7745

Thursday, September 9

Affinity Lez Chat "Networking" 7pm at Affinity Community Services, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Aldo Castillo Gallery "The History of Latin America" digital photos by Sylvia Nueves & "The Art of Memory" showcasing 7 prominent Chgo Latino American Artists thru Oct. 9, 5-9pm. 233 W. Huron (312) 337-2536

Looking Glass Actor's Gymnasium "Capoeira" Afro-Brazilian form of dance, gymnastics, martial art & singing thru Nov. 11 7-8:30pm, 927 Noyes St, Evanston (847) 328-2795

TPAN's 3rd Annual Gala Dinner, cabaret, live auction, live DJ at School of the Art Institute, 112 S. Michigan 6:30-11pm. More info call Patrick (773) 404-8726

Women & Children First presents Linda Spalding, *A Dark Place in the Jungle*, about Birule Galdikas studying gorillas, at 7:30pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Woman Made Gallery 9/9/99 Party & Fundraiser. Buffet, performances, tarot card readings. 7-9pm 1900 S. Prairie (312) 328-0038.

Saturday, September 11

CAN TV19 *The Congressional Black Caucus Hearing on Police Brutality and Misconduct*. Allegations of police abuse, particularly among African Americans & Latinos have accelerated in recent months. US Rep Danny K. Davis hosts show at 2 and 7pm.

Sunday, September 12

1st Annual City-wide C-Casa Walk to Fight Sexual Assault sponsored by Chicago Coalition Against Sexual Assault, comprised of the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Quetzal Center, Rape Victim Advocates & Mujeres Latinas en Acciòn. At the lakefront from North Ave-Addison Beach starting 9am. Call Megan (312) 372-6600 ext. 278

26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade Along 26th St. in La Villita on southwest side. !AMBIENTE PA'LANTE! plans to march as an openly queer contingent to promote queer Latina/o visibility in their own neighborhoods. More info call (773) 278-8563.

Lambda Ladies at the Links Golf & BBQ for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund at the Sidney Marovitz Golf Course in Lincoln Prk on Irving Pk Rd 10am. Post-golf party w/bbq at StarGaze in Andersonville 2-6pm (312) 663-4413 ex29

Looking Glass Actor's Gymnasium "World Beat" Learn dances from Africa & African diaspora thru Nov. 14 10:15-11:45am, Evanston (847) 328-2795

more detailed calendar listings in Nightlines, and online www.outlineschicago.com

South Suburban Sisters Monthly meeting 3-5 in Orland Pk (708) 460-8025

WTTW Channel 11 "American Playhouse: An American Love Story" 5-part series centered around a black man & white woman who have struggled for more than 30 years against racial stereotypes. Runs thru Sep. 16, 8-10pm

Wed., September 15

City's Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues Meeting at Affinity, 5650 S. Woodlawn (Lower level of First Unitarian Church) 6-8:30pm.

HIV Treatment Live! "New Developments in HIV-Related Lipodystrophy" A free interactive phone conference series on current HIV treatment developments. To join teleconference, must register in advance by calling (800) 880-5121 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm eastern time. Participants include a panel of doctors that may be asked questions, make comments or just listen to. (415) 974-5558

A Real Read in Boston thru Sep. 19 as part of Theatre Offensive's "Out on the Edge Festival '99". Info (617) 426-5000.

WTTW Channel 11 *In The Life: Lights, Camera, Activism! IV*, a look at films highlighting and exploring the gay & lesbian experience at 11pm. (773) 583-5000. Stories on this episode: Bring It to the Masses, distributors of gay & lesbian films; John Waters and his offbeat sensibility; Hungary Comes Out, the Budapest Gay & Lesbian Film Festival; Battle for the Box, the religious right versus Gay TV; Bruce Vilanch, writer for the stars; *Tomboy*, www.inthelifetv.org.

Thursday, September 16

Atlanta, Ga "Shattering Stereotypes: Equal Writes in the Newsroom," NLGJA 8th annual convention through the 19th. njgja@aol.com, www.nlgja.org.

Chicago Foundation for Women Annual Luncheon & Symposium featuring keynote address from Chilean author, Isabel Allende. (312) 266-1176

Saturday, September 18

Affinity 40Plus "Merging Two Households" 4pm at Affinity Community Services, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Amigas Latinas hosts a Latin Health Community Dialogue 9:30am-2pm at Egan Urban Center, 243 S. Wabash (312) 409-5697

Chicago House Art of Caring: World Tour II Annual black-tie event 7pm at Hotel Inter-Continental, 505 N. Michigan (773) 248-5200 ext. 307.

Sunday, September 19

All Joke's Aside Women's "It's a She Thang." Suzanne Westenhofer @ Ivanhoe Theatre. 750 W. Wellington 7pm (773) 643-0245 Proceeds to Lesbian Community Cancer Project.

Hot House hosts 1st Annual Chicago World Music Festival thru Sep. 30. 31 E. Balbo (312) 362-9707.

Wed., September 22

WTTW Channel 11 Artbeat Chicago, video magazine for the performing and visual arts showcasing talent, excitement & creativity that make up Chicago's art scene. 7:30pm Also, "Seeking Solutions with Hedrick Smith", focusing on how several communities develop grassroot responses to local crime problems - teen gangs, ethnic violence & hate crimes. 8-10:30pm

Thursday, September 23

Affinity New volunteer orientation 6:30pm at Affinity Community Services, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Color Triangle: Confronting Hatred Across Communities, 2nd anniversary event, 6-8:30p, Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph, (312) 742-8203.

The Workplace in a New Era: A Business Leader's Conference on HIV/AIDS Learn more about HIV & AIDS workplace issues and solutions with this one-day workshop at the Inter-Continental Hotel, (773) 388-8867.

Friday, September 24

Affinity "It's A Play Thang" Videos, games, food & fun 7pm at Affinity Community Services, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Center East's 20th Anniversary Paula Poundstone (847) 673-6300

Saturday, September 25

Logan Square GLBT Neighbors Monthly meeting at Logan Square Public Library, 3255 W. Atgeld, 11am-1pm (773) 278-8563

Unity Month "Breaking Barriers/Building Bridges, A Human Relations Perspective" at 1145 W. Wilson (312) 744-2244

Monday, September 27

Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band at United Center 7:30pm (312) 559-1212. Also, Sep. 28

Windy City Naturists Body Tenderworks. Limited space. Call (773) 866-0064 no later than 9/23

Women & Children First presents Ellen Galinsky, *Ask the Children: Redefining the Work/Family Debate* at 7:30pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Tuesday, September 28

Cell Block Annual Celebrity Auction hosted by Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame (773) 281-5095.

Women & Children First presents Cait Irwin, *Conquering the Beast WIthin: How I Fought Depression and Won ... And How You Can, Too: One Teenager's Inspiring Story* at 7:30pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Wed., September 29

House of Blues Jaguares. 9p, $37.50. 329 N. Dearborn. (312) 527-2583.

WTTW Channel 11 "The Americanos Concert" Gloria Estefan heads an all-star cast in celebration of Latino-American culture. Also featured Jose Feliciano, Juan Luis Guerra, Sheila E., Susan Baca & Tito Puentes. 8-9:30pm. Also, "Divine Mission: San Xavier del Bac" Follow the renovation of the only standing Mexican Baroque church in the United States. 9:30pm

Friday, October 1

Annual Brother-2-Brother Retreat "Living in the Spirit," through Oct. 3rd. $175. Malibu, Calif. (323) 964-7820.

Women & Children First presents Barrie Jean Borich, *My Lesbian Husband* at 7:30pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Saturday, October 2

Illinois Federation for Human Rights "Statement for Freedom VI" annual benefit showcasing IL's best gay & lesbian performers at Park West (773) 477-7173

Sunday, October 3

Women & Children First Katherine V. Forrest, *Sleeping Bones: A Kate Delafield Mystery* at 5pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Friday September 3rd, 1999
Special Live Performance
Chicago Singing Sensation
Sharon Pass
Singing live "Say the Word" & "Go Down Moses"
Friday September 3rd, 1999
National Circuit
DJ Sedrick the District Mother
&
Hip-Hop
DJ Steve Miggedy Maestro
WGCI
SUNDAY LIVE, September 5th, 1999
The Record Release Party
TESTAMENT
dj Ron Carroll
House Minister/Remixer/Producer
& Producer dj Mazzi
with dj Steve Miggedy Maestro WGCI
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ArtsExpress

**** Gay/les/bi/queer/trans content or interest

Theatre

Aug 27: **The Problematic Cartoonist** Greg Allen (NeoFuturists), Danny Thompson and Ben Schneider (Theater Oobleck) team up to present **The Complete Lost Works of Samuel Beckett** as found in an envelop (partially burned) in a dustbin n in Paris, labeled "Never to be performed. Never. Ever. EVER! Or I'll sue! I'll SUE FROM THE GRAVE!!!" Jenny Magnus and The Curious Theatre Branch are offering a new play , **The Lucky Ones**, and Eric Zeigenenhagen's Penlight Theater is producing **Facts and Figures.** Rhino Festival newcomers include Matt Wilson and Hysteria Productions **In the Wreckage,** The Drama Club presenting **Bury the Dog,** Cougar Cougar Productions with **Cows** and events like single performances by Lucky Pierre, with **Movie Stars Live Here,** My **Penis-In and Out of Trouble,** Cin Salach's **Ten Tongues** and a pairing of Plastiscene's **4X4,** with Germany's Theater im Quadrat presenting **Gartett.** Thru Oct 2, Lunar Cabaret, 2827 N Lincoln. 773 327-6666.

**** ***Sept 8:*** **Rent** Second national tour of this bittersweet musical that celebrate a community of artists as they struggle with soaring hopes, tough realities of today's world. Thru Oct 10, Shubert, 22 W Monroe 312 977-1710

**** ***Sept 8:*** **A Chorus Line** directed by Marc Robin. thru Oct 16, Drury Lane, 2500 W 95th St., 708 422-0404

Sept 8: **The State of Mississippi vs. Emmett Till** True story of a 14 year old African-American from Chicago, discovered floating in a Mississippi river in 1955, beaten and mutilated, victim of a hate crime because he supposedly directed a harmless wolf whistle at a white woman. The play examines this historical case, its vital impact on the early fight for civil rights in America, and story of Mamie Till Mobley (who co-authored), a mother who struggled to for unrealized justice. Pegasus Players, Truman College's O'Rourke Ctr., thru October, 773 878-9761

Sept 17: **For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf** A woman's view of women of her race facing everything from rape to unrequited love with more courage than sorrow. Chicago Cultural Center thru Oct 24. 312 494-5720

Sept 17: **Mahalia, The Life Story of Mahalia Jackson** includes 18 songs made famous by the Queen of Gospel. Stars Latonya Beacham, a visual replica with a great voice. Black Ensemble Th, 4520 N Beacon, previews Sept. 17, 18, opens 19. 4520 N Beacon Thru Oct. 24. 773 769-4451

Sept 18: **Jane: Abortion and the Underground** About underground abortion service by by Hyde Park women from 1969 to 1973. Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division 773 334-6032.

**** ***Sept 27:*** **Dancer from the Dance** written, directed by Eric Rosen, based on acclaimed gay novel by Andrew Holleran. About Face Th, Jane Addams Center Hull House 3212 N Broadway 773 549-7943

In Performance

All Night Strut about a time, music uniquely American. Nostalgic, musical melting pot of blues, swing, jazz, gospel, pop, to funky jive, late night jam sessions of a sophisticated cafe society whose language was an art form. Comaradarie in Great Depression, World War II thru Aug 29. Drury Lane, 2500 W. 95th St., Evergreen Park. 708 422-0042

**** **Breathe** Gay and lesbian vignettes: executive meets Goddess in a sales meeting: a young girl dreams of the woman she will marry; a priest seeks healing; an old man and woman sit enjoying friendship; a young man strives to reach the father who has left him; a grandmother watches her grandson's gay poetry slam. Thru Aug 29. 773 883-1090

**** **Love, Janis** Local singer, songwriter Cathy Richardson makes her theater debut as Janis Joplin, four performances out of every week, in a musical tribute to Janis' life, soul, legend through songs, letters. Part rock concert, part biography. The personal side is told through letters home, public side through her music. Richardson alternates (call for dates) in role of Janis, public singer, with Andra Mitrovich; and Catherine Curtin plays Janis, private person. Single tix 312 988-9000; group discounts 312 944-3123

**** **The Normal Heart** encore run in repertory with **Falsettos.** Directed by Stephen Rader who also acts in Falsettos. Thru Sept 24. Athenaeum, Tcktmaster 3212 902-1500

Some Like it Hot - The Musical Funny tale of two Chicago jazz musicians who, after witnessing a mob hit, dress as women, join an all-girl orchestra to avoid becoming gangsters' next victims. Thtr at the Center 219 836-0422

**** **Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind** Thirty constantly changing plays in 60 minutes, every F-S 11:30p, S 7p Neo-Futurarium open run 773 275-5255

**** **Where Men are Empty Overcoats** comedy of definitions, who we are, to ourselves, to the world. Fifteen year old tells tale as her twenty-five year old brother comes out of the closet to the very whitebread, middle class parents on Thanksgiving. Shock turns to denial, relationship ps are redefined, bonds are strengthened. Theatre Bldg, 1225 W Belmont 773 327-5252

DANCE

**** ***Aug 25:*** **Diggers at a Burial** by Guy J. Jackson. Slinking along at the edge or reality ad society, you may find yourself brushing the presence of something ancient, dark, loathsome. Bailiwick 773 883-1090

Aug 26: **Stompin' at the Skyline Stage,** musical performance by the Center for Black Music Research's ensemble Stop-Time. A performance of African-American popular music from turn of century to present day; jazz, R&B, Negro spiritual, gospel song, rap, soul. Columbia College (312) 663-1600

**** ***Aug 28:*** **Dance for Life** Joffrey Ballet, Chicago; Hubbard Street Dance, Chicago; Trinity Irish Dance Co; Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago; River North Dance Co; Melissa Thodos & Dancers. Leading up to midwest's largest dance-related AIDS fundraising event have been a series of programs, volunteer efforts involving hundreds, workshops, special performances, in-school programs, other special events which extend mission of Dance for Life beyond actual performance. SkyLine Stage, 773 388-8997

Sept 1-2: **Hubbard Street Dance** Harrison McEldowney's *Let's Call the Whole Thing Off,* comic duet; Kevin O'Day's smooth, lyrical pas de deux *To Have and to Hold*; and McEldowney's *Group Therapy,* musical-theater-influenced piece about four couples working on their relationships; Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato's lush, ethereal *Na Floresta (The Forest)*; HSDC Founder and Artistic Director Lou Conte's big-band tribute, *The 40s.* Ravinia Festival. Tix (847) 266-5100

Sept 3: **Hubbard Street Dance** *Dancin' in the Moonlight* benefit, train departing Northwestern Station 5:50pm; (847) 266-5100. At Ravinia Festival

Sept 3-4: **Hubbard Street Dance** *Let's Call the Whole Thing Off,* plus Nacho Duato's emotionally powerful *Rassemblement (The Gathering)* Nederlands Danstheater Artistic Director Jiri Kylian's technically brilliant, farcical *Sechs Tanze (Six Dances)*; Daniel Ezralow's exhilarating *Read My Hips.* Ravinia Festival. Tix (847) 266-5100

Sept 9: **Strange Beauty** Following a slide lecture by art historian Debra Mancoff (Strange Beauty: Jane Morris and the 19th Century Female Aesthetic) The Dance COLEctive will premiere *Essence,* a new work by Artistic Director Margi Cole on historic Prairie Ave. The site-specific modern dance piece choreographed for 11 women is an interpretation of the theme of female body image, inspired by the painting of Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Also see next door's **Woman Made Gallery** listing for this evening. Glessner House, 1800 S Prairie, 312 326-1480

Sept 16: **The 58 Group** Fusion of dance, live jazz music devised by Chicago dance stalwart, acclaimed choreographer Ginger Farely, Vittum Thtr at Northwest Settlement House in Bucktown thru September. Tree Falls productions 773 276-3434

Art/Photo

Around the Coyote Art Festival collaboration between cultural institutions, includes workshops, tours, Sept 9-12 in Bucktown, Wicker Park. As a part of the Festival, a group show featuring 1-3 works of each of 46 artists selected Curator's Couice will be shown at Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. Multi-media exhibition will feature fifty six works including sculpture, photography, paintings, installations. Sept 9, 6-10pm; Sept 10 -11, 11am to 10 pm. and Sept 12, 10am-6pm. 2320 . Chicago Ave. Additional Curator's Choice sites to be posted. 773 342-6777

The Dusable Museum of African American History *State of the Blues: The Living Legacy of the Delta* features 90 portraits, 35 documentary photos by fine arts photographer Jeff Dunas of Blues Highway, a heritage trail thru the American South, thru Sept 12. *Harold Washington In Office,* permanent exhibition, w/ composite office setting; memorabilia; personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th, Cottage Grove Ave Washington Park Call about *Dusable After Dark*, monthly networking affair with cultural appeal. 773 947-0600

Hyde Part Art Center *Sextableos, Works on Metals* X-Rated reception Aug 28, show exploring sex, taboos, with a Spanglish name: Mexican retablos (vernacular paintings on tin that deal with personal narratives of religion, saints, gratitude) Thru Oct 16. *2 X Stanugu,* two grand scale paintings "Hope," "Free Jazz," in a second exhibition space for Hyde Park Art Ctr in lobby of County Admin Bldg, 69 W. Washington 773 324-5520

South Shore Cultural Center Fine Art Gallery *Sextet: Voices for the New Millennium 1999: The Community Visionary,* the Art of Nina Smoot-Cain. Work from visual community artists, primarily paint. mosaic. Thru Aug 28. South Shore Cultural Center. 312 747-2936

Woman Made Gallery Sept 9 preview of *Reflections,* mixed media investigation by women of body image, female beauty thruthe ages. *9.9.99 Party* with appetizers, performance art, tarot card readings, and more for $9.99. (See Dance section for related event.) *Reflections* Sept 10 thru Oct 8. 312 328-0038

HARAMBE JAHARD

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Photo by Rosalind Glanton

CREATING VISIBILITY

Thursday, September 2nd: Healthy Woman Nite
"Identifying and Treating Anxiety and Depression"
with Lugenia Bailey - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 3rd: Party at Rails – 1675 N Elston!!! Portion of the night's proceeds to be donated to Affinity

Thursday, September 9th: Lez Chat – "Networking" – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 18th: 40 Plus "Merging Two Households" – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 23rd: New Volunteer Orientation – 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 24th: "It's a Play Thang"
Join us for Videos, Games, Food, and Fun – 7:00 p.m.

All events located at (unless otherwise noted)

Affinity Community Services

5650 South Woodlawn
Chicago, Illinois 60637
(773) 324-0377
Email: affinity95@aol.com

Samuel Delany's 'Bread & Wine' Illustrates Complexities of Love & Life

by Yvonne Zipter

Bread & Wine: **An Erotic Tale of New York, by Samuel R. Delaney (New York: Juno Books, 1999); ISBN: 1890451029; $14.99**

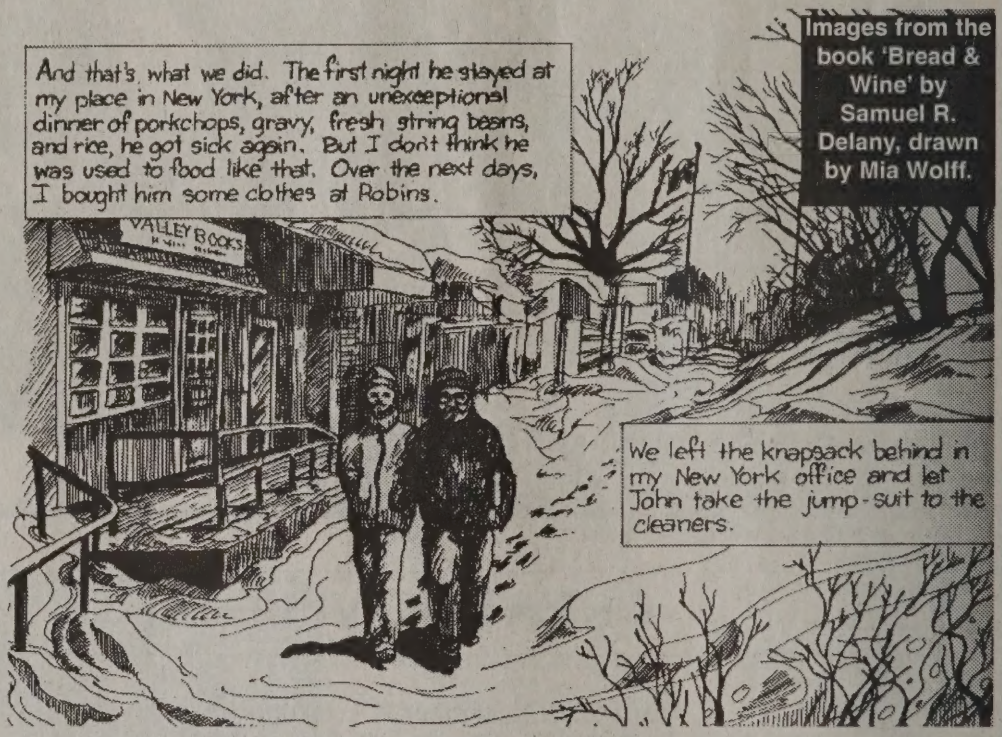
Bread & Wine is a categorized as a "graphic novel" by the publisher, but while comic bookstyle drawings do accompany the text, this book is not a work of fiction. Rather, it is the autobiographical story of how Samuel Delaney, a wellknown and respected author and college professor, begins an intimate relationship with a homeless man. There are so many reasons why this relationship "should not" work: Delaney is African American, Dennis is white; Delaney is exceptionally well educated and rather cosmopolitan, Dennis has known only life on the streets since his early twenties; Dennis is literally filthy, while Delaney maintains the "normal" standards of hygiene. Despite these apparent difficulties, they miraculously embark on what is destined to become a long-term relationship: as of the completion of the writing of the book in 1997, the two had been together nearly seven years.

They met when Delaney decided he wanted to buy a book from Dennis, who sold them from a blanket on 72nd Street in New York. Delaney had forgotten his wallet, but Dennis let him take the book anyway, telling him he could pay him later. When Delaney actually returned with the money, Dennis was surprised. Delaney found Dennis to be quiet and good natured, and the two struck a friendship.

Eventually, they began joking about Dennis being a kept boy, an idea that apparently intrigued Delaney because eventually they began to talk about the possibility of the two of them getting involved sexually. Ultimately, Delaney rented a motel room for the weekend where the two of them, after Dennis bathed, had sex and talked long into the night. Over the course of the weekend, they began to talk about the possibility of Dennis going with Delaney to visit Amherst, where Delaney taught, but at the end of the weekend, Dennis pretty much disappeared for a couple of weeks and Delaney thought that was the end of it. In fact, though, during that time Dennis had been checking out Delaney, worried that he might be "a crazy psycho cuttin' me up in little pieces"! In March of 1990, Dennis accompanied Delaney to Amherst and they've "been together ever since."

The story, not surprisingly given Delaney's credentials, is skillfully told, and the illustrations add another dimension to the story. The details of Dennis's life, in particular, are both fascinating and horrifying. At the motel that first time, for instance, Dennis must take his shoes off in order to bathe. He says to Delaney, "I hope you got a strong stomach." When Delaney asks how long it has been since he's had his shoes off, Dennis estimates two or three months. Delaney relates the experience as follows: "The high laced workboots and the three layers of socks beneath them came off—and out of them came a stench that, frankly beats anything I've ever smelled before! The inner pair of socks had simply decayed around his feet." Days later, when Delaney returns to the motel room with a friend of his for some things he'd left there, he says, "Even though I'd thrown out the offending socks and rotten clothes, sprayed the place with deodorizer, and opened the windows wide before I left, it was the shit-and-vinegar sourness of Dennis's feet [that his friend smelled as he opened the door]. That room was going to be unrentable for the next few days."

There were times, however, with the written text within, above, underneath, and between the boxed drawings, that I had trouble figuring out in what order the text items were meant to be read, especially initially. Another disruption in the flow of text are the interspersed quotes from Friedrich Hölderlin's "Bread and Wine." The quotes are meant, apparently, to reflect and/or illumínate the story at


And that's what we did. The first night he stayed at my place in New York, after an unexceptional dinner of porkchops, gravy, fresh string beans, and rice, he got sick again. But I don't think he was used to food like that. Over the next days, I bought him some clothes at Robins.
VALLEY BOOKS
We left the knapsack behind in my New York office and let John take the jump-suit to the cleaners.
Images from the book 'Bread & Wine' by Samuel R. Delany, drawn by Mia Wolff.

that juncture, but generally, instead, simply interrupted the narration. Furthermore, the story ends too soon, in my estimation, leaving the reader to wonder how Dennis makes the adjustment from being a street person to living in a home and being in a relationship. There is no mention of how the relationship "works," either. Delaney talks often about how they get along well together, but precisely what does that mean? How is their life together structured? No indication of this is given, not even in the most general terms.

There are other missed opportunities, as well. For instance, Dennis tells Delaney that his father was hit and killed by a truck, and then some weeks later, Delaney is struck by a truck and has several ribs broken. Each of these facts is recorded, but no mention is ever made of the incredible coincidence, nor of how Dennis might have felt about it.

Finally, there are moments in the text that would seem to require explanation, but none is given. For example, on page 43, Delaney says, "A couple of years ago (I swear I never said a thing), Dennis started collecting skullrings." The significance of this detail, either to Delaney or to the reader, is never explained.

Despite these quibbles, however, *Bread and Wine* is both an incredible love story and a valuable lesson in looking beyond the surface of things and getting past our cultural biases. People often say the last acceptable prejudice is against gay people, but bias against the homeless should probably be included as well. *Bread & Wine* puts a human face on homelessness, thereby putting a chink in our prejudice.

Lots of people, they're always tellin' you what they're gonna do for you out here— then you never see 'em again. But you ain't like that.
You want to stay out here and watch your cars today? I'll pick you up tomorrow. Monday, we'll take the early bus—
— to Boston
... to Amherst

COMING OUT OF DARKNESS: Still Haunted by Mr. Death

by Sanford Gaylord

I'd like to say thank you to the readers of this column. Some of you have spoken with me in person, by letter, or e-mail. Thank you for your words, they humble me. Words of encouragement when I wondered if I was able to continue to tell the story of my war on HIV. You have been a light in the darkness.

Ten years have passed since that Aug. 16 evening when I received a phone call from a doctor who informed me that I was HIV+. Time has flown at warp speed since Mr. Death, who for me, is HIV, haunted me. I have been blessed with maturity and wisdom on this journey, this tour of battle with HIV. There have been many life lessons learned and many scars that are in various states of healing. It wasn't until this year that I forgave myself for testing positive so many years ago. Simply forgiving myself has sent soothing love deep within where the scars are the deepest. I've gone inside myself in a search for answers and have come out screaming, but it has helped me come out of a great deal of darkness.

Ten years ago, I had heard the messages about HIV. I have no one to blame for HIV but myself. In the heat of the moment I made a decision to forgo safer sex, full off of some mind-altering substance, looking for love while listening to unfulfilled promises. In my ignorance, I never thought it would happen to me.

The feeling of loss due to HIV has been profound. Loss that makes you feel afraid when you hear the phone ring. Haunted by that deafening moment before one of the few familiar voices shatters the silence with those numbing words. The recovery process is an ongoing journey. It's way too easy to isolate from the pain by a myriad of means—praying for the burning to stop.

The life that I was living prior to and proceeding my HIV+ diagnosis could have very well killed me. Being Haunted by Mr. Death led me to increase an existing habit of sipping vodka and sniffing cocaine; numbing my pain but leading me into my own slow suicide. I decided to fight him and declared war on HIV. Since that time, I have claimed life after diagnosis and look upon myself as *Old Wine in a New Bottle.*

I am truly a blessed Black man in America. I have had the pleasure of being in the company of warrior brotha's and sista's of African decent. They stood tall on the frontlines, torches held high. On the frontlines with words of encouragement and love for their little brotha's and sista's in the form of oral history, just as our ancestors before us. It only takes a picture, song, word or quiet moments to flash you back to a million memories.

I am honored to be in the presence of many warriors of all colors both professionally and in my artistic life. Some of whom I have the pleasure of calling friend, little/big brotha or sista. What I hold in my heart is that we can be a tribe of warriors, causing rippling effects of knowledge, love and understanding for our people, and ourselves.

Ten years ago, I was told to get my affairs in order. I couldn't imagine seeing 30 being HIV+ at 24. Now I have the mixed blessing of proving that doctor, previous associates and myself wrong even after receiving the description of "Person Living with AIDS" after a bout of tuberculosis. I never would have thought that I would call myself a long-term survivor, but now I can. I have matured to see goals achieved and reach new milestones in my life.

When the casualties of war were mounting in HIV's favor, I decided to go with therapeutic armamentarium. I started HIV antiretroviral therapy to combat the virus in my body. I've dealt with the side effects and switched regimens. With my current regimen, the virus is contained; however, there are reservoir pockets of the virus in my body even though blood tests show that there is no virus in my blood. I still have to follow my rituals with my regimen, adhering to the daily dosing until there is a cure for AIDS and we are still no where near cure.

We can all be warriors. If you're not living with HIV, when was the last time you took a test? Knowing is better than not and it's better to be prepared with an arsenal of knowledge. My brotha's and sista's with HIV can tell their stories. All of us can remind someone to practice safer sex.

I'm still Haunted by Mr. Death, as are many millions of people globally. Now is not the time for us to be complacent. Yes, taking meds and changing destructive behaviors have helped many people call themselves long-term survivors, but the war on HIV is far from over. People are still dying every day and there have been confirmed reports of multi-drug resistant HIV on both coasts of the United States.

In my case, I tested positive in 1989. Since 1990 it has been documented that the proportion of AIDS cases occurring in people of African decent surpassed cases occurring among that of whites. In the African motherland, almost 90% of the population are HIV+ and the numbers are still growing celestial. Here in Chicago, AIDS has become the No. 1 killer for people of African decent ages 25-44. Another one of our youth has just contracted HIV while you've been reading this article.

Mr. Death now haunts too many new faces.

A nightmare that I wrote about seems to be turning into a reality. By the year 2000, everyone just may know someone who is affected or infected by HIV. I'm concerned about my tribe and my people. There is so much darkness that we all must still come through. This journey has felt like an odyssey but only the warrior spirit can persevere through the trials. The mark of a survivor and warrior is perseverance.

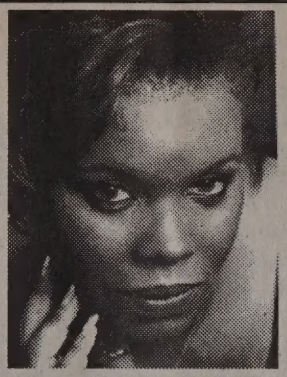
We can all be warriors. If you're not living with HIV, when was the last time you took a test? We've just come out of a long hot summer and knowing is better than not and it's better to be prepared with an arsenal of knowledge. My brotha's and sista's living with HIV can tell their stories. All of us can remind someone that we know or love to practice safer sex.

There are various resources from support groups, to mental health advertised in BLACKLINES or listed in the resource directory. We owe it to ourselves to keep on talking, as we come out of darkness leaving Mr. Death in the shadows. The journey continues...

How I See It

... And I Will Have Two Fillings

by C.C. Carter



I grew up in Queens, New York, in a neighborhood that was richly eclectic with Black, Latin, and West Indian Americans. Soccer and Basketball were the top neighborhood sports for boys and girls, mostly because overhead to play was cheap. But I was more of an observer on the sidelines than a player on the field or court, and preferring basketball to soccer (they can have all that running and bruising). So when this summer's soccermania swept the U.S. by storm, I have to admit, I was kinda like, "What's the big deal?" Then the infamous Nike dentist commercial aired and I found myself glued to the television—more because I wanted to know who the butch looking (wishful thinking) Black girl was with the different colored uniform than the rest of the team. Then one day while channel surfing, I flipped on the soccer finals and understood better. There she was Briana Scurry, different from the rest in all aspects, but nonetheless on this history-making team.

Talking to friends and coworkers, the craze and conversation was about the Black girl on the soccer team. Verna and I found ourselves glued to the TV, the way we did when Tiger won the Masters, Debbie Thomas skated and Dominique Dawes flipped for the gold.

We sat holding our breath every time a ball came toward her end, the way Blacks sat around radios silently not breathing when Joe Frazier fought and Jackie Robinson hit his first home run.

We were afraid to blink as if it would put some bad voodoo mojo on her hands, the way we didn't blink when Muhammed Ali fought for the title. She was more than just a goalie for the U.S.A Women's Soccer Team, she was history in the making for Black Americans everywhere. Yet, even while almost going into cardiac arrest during the double overtime, I couldn't help but recognize the symoblism of this woman and the position she played. A Black woman, the only one starting, on a team, playing in a position that blocks entrance to her teams' defeat. And I knew that for her to be there, she had to be damn good. Not just 100%, but 110%. I wanted her to block every shot, not just because I wanted the team to win, but because I knew what the media and America would have done to her had she not gotten that one block. I knew what questions Black America would have to answer as well, spending the entire summer defending whether she was the right one for that position. And I believe she knew this as well. Ask Debbie Thomas when she fell, ask Dominque when she slid out the line, ask Tiger when he lost the next two tournaments. Ask yourself after you've done your best, yet it seems like that wasn't enough.

Which brings me to how I see it. I watched Briana block shots from soccer balls coming toward her at eighty and ninety miles an hour. Getting hit and taking hits and having some of the balls go by her. She guarding the net by herself yet part of a team, and I wonder how many of us are willing to take two fillings when we don't need them. Yeah, they were only balls literally, but from the metaphoric sense they could have been bricks, bats, burning crosses, and even corporate ceilings, that she was deflecting, blocking, throwing back out to the center, and shattering.

She was integral to the team, and yet she stood out and alone in the pictures, in the commercials, and in the interviews. I wonder if she cared about what people thought of her growing up and wanting to be on the World Cup Soccer team. I wonder if she cared that this was a dream that many thought could be so unobtainable. We, Blacks, are constantly trying to scrutinize and condemn organizations that have boards that don't reflect us, and reside outside neighborhoods where we live. We talk about how "They" don't have our best interest at heart. We talk about the alienation that we feel when decisions are made and African-Americans or People of Color are not included in those LGBT rights or issues. But, when have we been willing to join a team even if it means being the only one, even if it means having to be the goalie before you can kick the winning point —as if blocking the one potential goal didn't count for something. Even if it means you stand alone, but play fair, and learn the rules, until you know the game inside and out and recruit others to teach it to them.

Talking to friends and co-workers, the craze and conversation was about the Black girl on the soccer team. Verna and I found ourselves glued to the TV, the way we did when Tiger won the Masters, Debbie Thomas skated and Dominique Dawes flipped for the gold.

So here's to all the goalies in our community who are the only ones on a team. Helping to break stereotypes, and redesign perceptions of LGBT and Black Americans and People of Color. Who in their jobs, and organizations, and social gatherings stand alone in a crowd, but represent us with integrity and respectability. Who we turn to when we want to complain about how unfair this society is, and they in turn go before words that hit just as hard as soccer balls, but they let them deflect off their chests and throw in our issues front and center. Here's to those taking two fillings every day so that we can have a voice in an "often overlooked, and silent," community. And to those who think that they are alone, not knowing that we watch from the sidelines holding our breaths, saying our prayers, and screaming in our wishes, for you to succeed, to keep us thriving, to win for us. Maybe one day when we can get past our own issues of coming out, speaking out, and bonding together, we too can join in on a team. But for now, know that we see you, we hear you, we know who you are, and we depend on you to keep on representing. As for me, I'm ready—and I will have two fillings, too. Now I could be wrong, but that's how I see it.

Theatre: 'Jitney' at the Goodman

by Lester Davis

August Wilson's famous plays have illustrated the adventure, comprehensive joy, anguish and bitter struggle of African Americans in the twentieth century; however, each of Wilson's plays is set in a different decade. *Jitney* takes place in 1977 in Pittsburgh in a poor area that was slated for redevelopment after World War II—the Hill District.

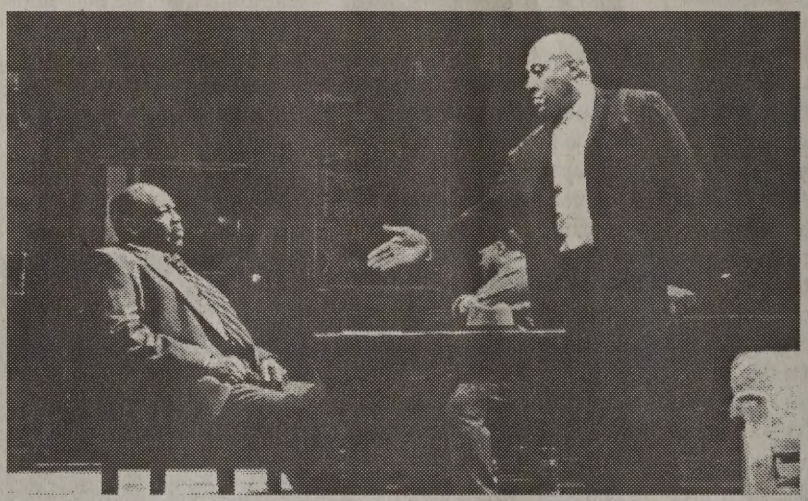
The Goodman Theater topped its 1998-'99 mainstage season with August Wilson's *Jitney,* which originally ran through Aug. 1. The Goodman extended *Jitney* for seven days until Aug. 8, due to an extraordinary ticket demand at the box office.

August Wilson illustrates in *Jitney* how African Americans in Pittsburgh used jitneys-unlicensed cab service—to pick them up from grocery stores, help elderly passengers, deliver packages and even provide rides on credit, because the licensed cab service refused to. I remembered my mother talking about her experience taking jitney cabs right here in Chicago. A cab service that ran down King Drive from 35th Street to 63rd Street back in the '40s and '50s.

Marion McClinton has worked with August Wilson for many years. He played a role in the 1985 version of *Jitney* as Fielding at Penumbra Theater Company in St. Paul, Minnesota. Today, he directs *Jitney* with exquisite experience. He understands what it is to live the life of the character. McClinton focuses his attention around the restoration of a relationship between a father and son.

The cast of *Jitney* brought magic to the Goodman Theater stage, by being awesome in character. The cast consisted of seven outstanding actors and one dear actress. There were a total of six jitney drivers. Willis Burks II (Shealy), from the film *The Preacher's Wife* directed by Penny Marshall, was a jitney driver who takes bits and lottery numbers on the side while being a womanizer. Paul Butler (Becker), runs the unlicensed cab service and has a problem with his son, (Booster, played by Keith Randolph Smith), who was in jail over 20 years for murder.

Leo Finnie III (Philmore), played the role of a door attendant and visiting friend of the station. Anthony Chisholm (Fielding), a veteran actor of August Wilson and Marion McClinton, played an alcoholic cab driver. Stephen McKinley Henderson (Turnbo), played a role as busybody, nosy, cab driver that knows everybody's business. Barry Shabaka Henley (Doub), appeared in the film *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* starring Angela Bassette and Whoopi Goldberg, and here played one of the drivers with a laid back character.



Paul Butler and Keith Randolph Smith in 'Jitney,' which ran thru Aug. 8 at the Goodman Mainstage.

Russell Hornsby (Youngblood) was the youngest cab driver, attempting to save his money to purchase a home for his girlfriend, Rena and son. Michole Briana White (Rena), a Chicago native, played Youngblood 's girlfriend.

Rob Milburn, sound designer, opened *Jitney* up with a familiar hit tune by Marvin Gaye, "What's Goin' On." Throughout the play, he uses several of Gaye's hits to depict the era of the 1970s and it works well, because Marvin Gaye's music was very popular then.

David Gallo was set designer for *Jitney* and the longest running presentation of *Blue Man Group* in Chicago.' The stage was set up in a dilapidated, dusty, high-ceiling storefront, which served as the jitney station. The props used on stage were a table and chair, old sofa, radio, a blackboard that kept track of each driver run, a pay phone to receive passenger's calls. Outside the station are parked cars used as jitney cabs. The set is built on a slant to give the effect of the Hill District in Pittsburgh.

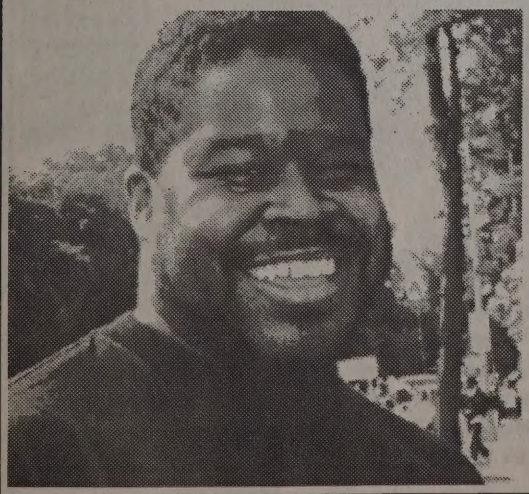
Donald Holder, the lighting designer, knew how to designate what lights on stage to transform from day to night, creating intimacy and destruction. A red gel lighting was used in the background that reflected on a painted scrim to represent the scene of Becker's death while the set remained dark. Susan Mickey, the costume designer, took us back to the era of the '70s with the bell-bottom slacks, and wide-collared shirts. She brought the flava of the '70s to today's trendy look.

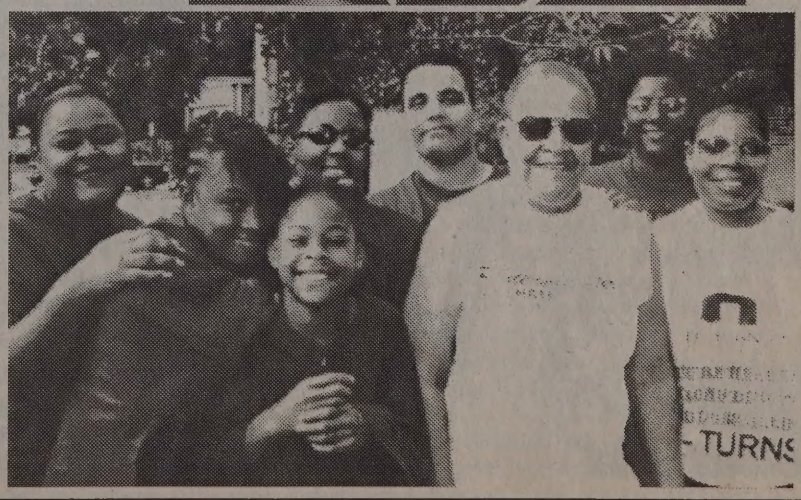
August Wilson's play *Jitney* was an outstanding performance. *Jitney* is history, full of laughter and despair: a drama that every father should see with their son.

Back by popular demand at the Chicago's Shubert Theater is *Rent* Sept. 7-Oct. 8. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster or the Shubert Theater box office. Don't miss this incredible performance!! Call (312) 977-1710.

Black LGBT community represented at Bud Billiken

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays (CBLG) organized a contingent of Black LGBT groups, organizations, businesses and agencies to march in the 70th annual Bud Billiken Parade Aug. 14. The parade marks the beginning of the new school year. A wide variety of individuals and groups were represented on the float and marching alongside. Call CBLG 312-409-4917. Photos by Brian McGee





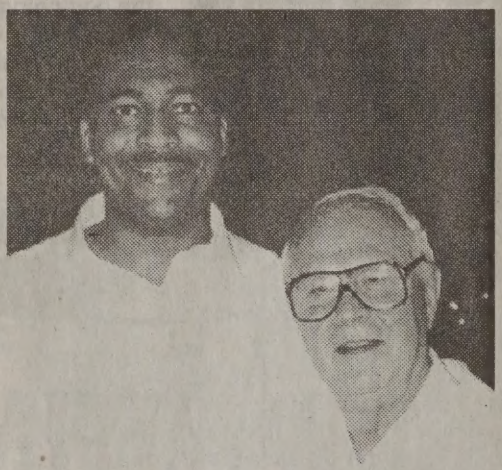
Philly Hosts 19th NABWMT Confab

by Preston L. Shumaker

During the week of July 19-25, approximately 207 participants traveled to Philadelphia for the National Association of Black and White Men Together's (NABWMT) 19th Annual Convention.

Entitled "Building Alliances—Breaking Confines," the organization stressed rising to the challenge of addressing racism, sexism, HIV/AIDS discrimination and homophobia through strengthening commonalities. However, the reoccurring themes permeating at the conference became renewing and redefining personal goals by recommitting oneself to the fight against prejudice, ignorance and bigotry. A series of keynotes and workshops led by insightful speakers included local Congressman Angel Ortiz, Author Ricc Rollins, renown poet Sonia Sanchez, and the honorable Mayor of Philadelphia, Ed Rendell.

Among the many highlights: at the welcoming ceremony Congressman Ortiz reflected on the recent death of John Kennedy, Jr. "This recent tragedy brought back for many Americans the activist legacy of President John Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr. ... the period of promise. A period in which racism, sexism and homophobia was being fought actively. But unfortunately, bullets and assassinations cut short their vision. Then the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan years occurred. Those doors [of promise] then slammed shut. The former decade promoted promise while the latter promoted fear. Now, the death of John Kennedy, Jr. resurfaced this pain once again because he, too, possessed so much promise. The Kennedy legacy kept trying to promote those ideals' especially John Jr.: an America that can be an open society for everyone. The America, free of color, gender, and sexual, discrimination still exists perhaps even stronger, now. The 21st century can't be one saddled with barriers and colors that divide us. We, too, must make a difference," Ortiz offered.



LEFT: NABWMT co-chairs Ed Brown and Homer Adams. RIGHT: Lorenzo Robertson (president & author, Ishai Books) and partner Author Ricc Rollins. Photos by Preston

Likewise later during the week, author, father of two, and ordained minister Ricc Rollins also questioned the recent tragic events. "We have lost John & Caroline, Mother Teresa, Princess Diana. But, while I mourn their loss, I also need to stand within my own community and make a difference. These individuals dared to do so. We've lost people who had so much promise. But, if we are going to smash racism, it's got to start with you! What am I doing to facilitate the problem? Start making the difference in your community. Nigger is Nigger, no matter who utters the word; and faggot is faggot regardless of who says it. It's imperative that before we can make a difference in the community yet we must make one within ourselves, first."

Rollins then delivered another scathing question and call to action: "Though, you call yourselves the National Association of Black and White Men Together, how many of us have baggage? Many of us have storage that needs to be cleaned! Can you respect your lovers outside of

At the NABWMT Conference on Philadelphia. LEFT: Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, Alshah Simmons, Preston Shumaker, Prof. Beverly-Guy Sheftall, and Poet Sonia Sanchez. RIGHT: Former NABWMT co-chair Les Everett and partner Steve Ball.

the bedroom is the issue!

"Can you love him and all of his brothers who is not giving you any dick or any ass? The issue is not interracial relationships but placing limits on yourselves and respecting yourself. The moment that your bed stops shaking, ask your lover 'can you respect me and am I respected' becomes the real issue in any relationship. Personally, I'm no one's dildo! Gays and lesbians want equality but we are guilty of being the biggest separatists in the community.

"Before the rest of the world accepts us, we must learn to respect ourselves first. ... We've got to get beyond our bags and junk. Closets are meant to be cleaned out! Shakespeare said 'to thyself be true.' Nobody can heal those wounds in your life but you," Rollins shared.

At the concluding NABWMT Awards Banquet Ceremony, Mayor Ed Rendell issued a welcoming proclamation to the NABWMT. Also, Professor Beverly-Guy Sheftall, and former President, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, both of Spellman College, made guest appearances.

Afterwards, Keynote Speaker Sonia Sanchez delivered her stirring, award-winning poetry. She concluded with a poem written in honor of her deceased gay brother. "We must learn to love and appreciate our family as they are. We must try to love and appreciate family while they are here," Sanchez said.

The 20th anniversary NABWMT Convention, "It's Time to Come Home to the Golden Gate," will be in San Francisco, July 3-8, 2000.

Community of the Free, Home of the Brave?

by Preston L. Shumaker

Like most GLBT Chicagoans probably realize, there has been a surge of hate crimes within our metropolitan area due to racism, sexism, and homophobic beliefs. But what's really frightening is our individual response to it—this dehumanization process is not an isolated incident. Hate is brewing like a pressure cooker. Various members of our communities are targeted by perpetrators for being "deviant," and "not being one of us." Many hate mongers drive by and hurl comments, attack us physically, sometimes with fatal consequences. Like clockwork, top Illinois politicians have gathered and decided Illinois needs yet another task force with the same activists to investigate the increased incidence of hatred. However, what are most of us doing about it? Have we forgotten that with freedom comes costs?

I continue to hear politicians state that we must become more "tolerant of one another." Hmm, this word itself is very scary and dangerous. What does it mean to be tolerant? Is this a form of acceptance or competency? The AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY defined it as " ... to put up with, to bare; endure." Whatever happened to celebrating our diversity and seeing it as an asset and not a liability?

Dignity, value, self-respect, and satisfaction taken in one's achievements. Maybe it's just me, but does our community even try living these values year-round? We often treat each other with anything but dignity, value and respect. Even after the Pride Parade, our temporary unity breaks down. Some revert to our corporate closets. Many go back to their narrow-minded circle of friends—who all look alike, talk alike and act alike. Others return to the world of bars and pick-ups, where men often treat each other like meat. "What's in it for me?"—with a good dose of ageism, racism, sexism—seems to be the values we embrace. Instead of allowing diversity to energize us, we often look at those different from us as nasty and abnormal. And while AIDS, alcoholism and drug abuse continue to take their toll, the main concern for many is: "Where's the next party?" Sound familiar?

Nevertheless, we truly are a community of vast diversity. We are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered—we are also Black, White, Latino, Asian, Native American, foreign born. We are young, old, HIV Positive & Negative, Leathermen, Drag Queens—you name it, we got it! I don't know what happened to make us complacent as a community or as individuals when it comes to understanding & respecting each other. But I do know that we are all Human Beings with values and a limited time on this Earth.

It's been said, "You better make the most of today, for tomorrow is not promised!" People take that message and apply it in different ways. We can allow this increased hatred to empower the community and look at this problem in a realistic fashion ... instead of stepping over it or relegating it to government. We have forgotten that our freedom costs! The message we should take to heart is "You have to work hard for the little things so they won't take away the larger ones— nothing is guaranteed."

So let's do better—today! Our challenge is to exhibit conscientious action all year long. We can start by getting rid of all the negative catty remarks and name calling. It only embitters you and us as a community. If someone tells an offensive racist joke, or talks about women as 'breeders' or 'fish,' call them on it! Did someone just refer to a older man as a troll? Hey, there's always someone in the bar younger with a better body than you! Do you sit idle while your friends drink and drug themselves into oblivion? Sure, if you say something, they might tell you to "Mind your own business"... but if they really are your friends, it *is* your business! You are the only one who can redeem your values—but you have to take action to do it. You never know when the next victim of hate will be yourself or someone you love. Let's send a message: WE WON'T TOLERATE HATE!!

At the NABWMT Conference on Philadelphia, from left: Columnist Preston Shumaker, Joe Calhoun (Memphis), Michael Andres, Wilson, Sterling Anderson (Mr. Gay Ohio 1999).

Soulfully Yours, Ebony

by Sukie de la Croix

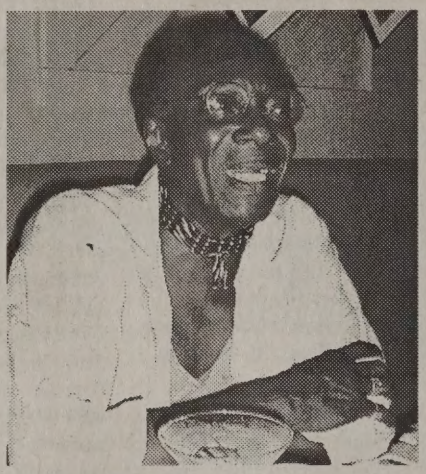
Nobody is really sure when the Halloween Balls started in Chicago, though we can certainly place the beginnings of the famous Finnie's Balls on the South Side. They started in 1935 when a Black gay street hustler called Alfred Finnie held a ball in the basement of a bar on the corner of 38th Street and Michigan Avenue. It cost 25 cents to get in and was attended by a mostly Black crowd.

Even though Finnie died in 1943—he was killed in a gambling brawl—Finnie's Balls continued up until the '60s, and were huge glamorous affairs, with upwards of 1,000 people attending. (For more information on Finnie's Balls read "Before Paris Burned: Race, Class, and Male Homosexuality on the Chicago South Side, 1935-1960," by Allen Drexel, an essay included in *Creating A Place For Ourselves,* edited by Brett Beemyn, Routledge $16.99.)

Over the years, Finnie's Balls changed the lives of thousands of lesbians and gay men, and one of those men was Ebony Carr (AKA Morie Carter). He now lives in Phoenix, Ariz., but I spoke to him recently on one of his rare visits to Chicago—a city where he came of age.

Carr was born Sept. 6, 1936, in East St. Louis, in Southern Illinois, "My dad was a dentist and my mom was a homemaker," he said. "I'm the oldest of four kids and my dad was a hard worker; he gave us a lot of things to believe in and hold on to.

"At school I was always very quiet, very studious and introverted. I went to the first integrated high school in Illinois. You see, that's back during segregation, but my dad was a strong believer that 'you're just as good as anyone else, but no better,' and that you are seen by your deeds. He was strong and opinionated, and basically you danced to his music. That was another reason I was always quiet, because I was trying to be the little guy that he wanted.



Above: Ebony today (photo by Sukie) and in performer days (opposite page).

"I think I always knew I was a little different. I used to like to draw and I was quite an artist. I would always tell my mother I wanted to be a fashion designer. Even when I was small I was always attracted to women's clothes. Not that they turned me on, but I thought they were pretty, and I knew how to take them and put them together. My dad and I used to have run-ins because I liked to play with paper dolls ... and that wasn't the masculine, or the boy thing to do.

"After I finished high school, I went off to Junior College, spent a year and a half at Junior College at Wayne State. I didn't get a deferment, because I was drafted in the Army. You take an IQ test when you first go in the Army, and they test you for what they think you would best fit. So I was placed in the medical corps. That was somewhere in the late-'50s. It was after Korea and several years before Vietnam. I don't remember dates, only events.

"I'll tell you about my Army days. I had a wonderful military career, there have always been gays in the military. I had basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., then I was transferred ... and that was ASA, secret intelligence — just outside of Boston, and that's when I got a chance to meet other gay people.

"It was the year *A Summer Place* was a big hit ... (1959) ... and that was the movie with Sandra Dee. For my birthday I went to Provincetown, and I remember driving down the coast and having my first romantic feeling toward another person, who was an officer. He asked me if I would like to go to P-town. I didn't know what P-town was. So we drove down and that was the first time I saw two guys kiss in the street. I walked into a post and almost knocked myself unconscious. I was very naive and gullible in those days.

"That's when I had my first male-to-male encounter, and that was with the officer. When I was in service I dated several officers. Being skinny and slightly feminine, I was always attracted to bisexual and straight men. But that's something I'll remember always, driving down the East Coast and hearing the theme from *A Summer Place.*

"I never got a chance to go overseas. I wondered why, because they say 'Join The Army, See The World.' Well, I didn't see much of the world, but I did see a part of the gay world. After getting out I went back to Highland Park, Mich. My parents divorced when I was 16, and we moved to that suburb in Detroit. I remember going to a bar called the Woodward, it wasn't even integrated then, and a Black kid could stand at the bar and wait a good half hour before the bartender would come over and acknowledge him. So with this, and coming out, and not being sure of who I was, what I wanted to be, and what I wanted to do, I thought, 'I can't live here in Highland Park.' I wanted to fulfil my dream, but I wasn't sure what my dream was. So I told my mom that I would like to go to Chicago.

"And I did. I remember getting off the train and into a cab. Now, my aunt once told me, 'One of the main things you do when you leave home, you always go to the YMCA.' So I jumped in this cab with two suitcases and said to the cab driver, 'Lawson YMCA please.' And I looked in the mirror at the cab driver's face, which was a smirk, smile, a sort of a snicker. It dawned on me later, because in the '60s you can imagine how the Y was. Going to the Lawson YMCA opened a whole new world for Morie Carter.

"So I enrolled in nursing school. At the Y I made a good friend and he was a cosmetology student, and I was a nursing student. We also had a friend who worked for the TRIBUNE. So all three of us decided to get this little one-bedroom apartment in Old Town, and upstairs were two other students. We were all as poor as church mice. One was a dress designer, and Paul wrote a dog column, he wrote about dog shows, and Jimmy was going to beauty school. We were so poor we went to Lincoln Park and stole the picnic bench as our dining room table.

"So one day we were sitting in the kitchen and Paul looked at me and said, 'You know, you have a very unusual face.'

Then Jimmy said, 'Let me put some make-up on it.' So they painted my face and Jimmy had some wigs and pieces, and at that time, there was this yellow dress that Liz Taylor wore for the opening of her husband's theater here in Chicago. Laurence had bolts of this yellow chiffon and he made this gown. Then we had another friend who worked in a floral shop. So I was the Barbie doll of my entire group. They whipped all of this up with the hair, with the flowers, big huge bouqets and went to Finnie's Ball, and I won second place, a trophy and $300. With that we were able to buy food for months and pay the rent.

"After the Ball, people took pictures, and one of the orderlies was there, and he took the pictures back to the hospital where I was a student, and was showing them around, 'This is Morie, don't you know who this is?' So the pictures were confiscated, and I was called into the Dean of Admissions and questioned, 'Are these pictures of you? Are you a transvestite?' I wanted to just die. I was going into my senior year in nursing, but I held my head up and just dropped out of nursing school. I couldn't dare phone my mother and tell her I'd been kicked out of school for wearing women's clothes. I had to go and find a job, and that's when I went back to Chuck Renslow at Sparrows.

"I had met him one Halloween when I performed one song there, and I knew his manager, Johnny, who was a very nice guy. He had been impressed. I did Shirley Bassey's 'Something.' So when I went back and told them my plight, they said, 'Why don't you come on down?' and so I did, and after that I never looked back. Sparrows was quite a show bar, the ongoing place for female impersonation.

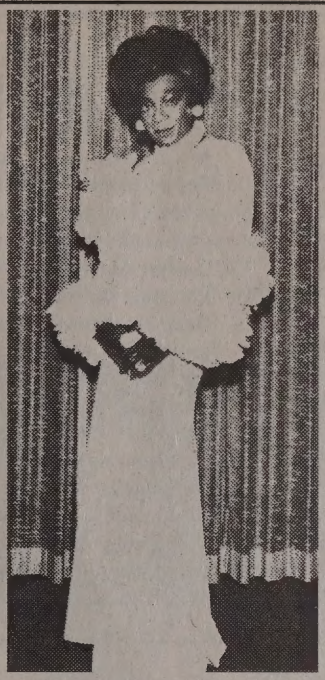
"That was Robey Lander's show, and with Robey you were a chorus boy until you really proved yourself. So for about two weeks I was a chorus boy, doing male lead with Wanda Lust (Steve Jones), and he and I would pull our wigs off and do boy parts with the other girls. The first big thing that I did by myself was a Tina Turner song called 'Funky Mosquito's Tweeter.'

"But you see, I wanted to be a Shirley Bassey, or a Dorothy Dandridge, and Robey told me, 'Ebony, you're elegant. You can wear those gorgeous gowns and all that, but that's not really you.' I think we were able to listen in those days, kids now—whether it's female impersonation or learning any kind of trade— they don't listen. She told all the kids in the cast, 'If you listen to me, you can go anywhere,' and Lord knows I've been all over the country and done drag.

"When Sparrows closed, I went to David's Place. That was a beautiful bar. By that time I had reinvented myself. I had audience appeal, but I wasn't that sensational. It was entertaining, it was nice, like 'Thank you, now go off.' But the moment I started doing Bluesy, uptempo songs like Big Mama Thornton's, 'You Aint Nothing But a Houndog' ... that's when I really got popular. Every entertainer has to have hype. You have to have a legend, and back in those days, you had to have soul. My monogram was 'Soulfully Yours, Ebony.'

"And we did excerpts from shows like *The King and I, Pippin, Raisin' in the Sun, Cabaret, Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar,* which was one of the most beautiful things I had ever seen on a small stage in drag, with smoke machines and capes that went across the entire stage."

After David's Place closed, Carr hung up his heels, "It was time for a reality check," he said. Carr went back to nursing and worked at St. Joseph's



hospital for the next ten years. Then, while taking some extended nursing courses at the University of Iowa, he met a man from Phoenix, "He would write nice love letters and he would come and visit. I'd never had a lover, someone who accepted everything that I was. He kept saying, 'Why don't you come to Arizona?' So one day I packed up and moved, and, along with nursing, I worked in my new lover's framing business.

"I didn't do drag, working shows can interfere with a relationship. He was a very shy, sensitive man ... I thought! Then I found Jack had been taking his love to town and after that I lost the respect. In the eight years we were together we had acquired four homes, the business had skyrocketed. So being very hurt I just let it all go.

"So you have to have something else in your life, and so I started back doing drag. This is in Phoenix, and Phoenix being a little Prairie town, they had never seen the likes of me. I wanted to make money, make money fast and be accepted because of my hurt ego from the relationship. I gave them Tony Midnite and Paul Brune gowns, I did everything except turn cartwheels and set a wig on fire, and that went on for about five or six years, and with the bars closing at 1 o'clock, I was still able to maintain a straight job. I was still in nursing."

For several years Carr was an HIV nurse and coordinator at Phoenix Baptist Hospital and has worked with some of the leading HIV physicians in the Southwest. He tells many stories of his experience with AIDS patients.

"One guy said to me, 'You're just an old Black nigger drag queen, why aren't you HIV?' I had to walk away, because that really hurt. Near the end of the shift I went back and I told him, 'I don't know why I'm not HIV, because I've done everything, possibly more things than you've done. But I think somewhere in a big book all our lives are written down and that's the way it's supposed to be. Our lives are hour glasses and the sand pours through, sometimes a little faster and sometimes a little slower. That's our lot in life.' I put my arms around him and gave him a hug, he cried, I cried, and he told me he was sorry."

"You see, I've always been a token. In East St. Louis, at the first integrated high school, I was one of 16 Black kids at this all-white school. Even in the Army, there were quite a few Blacks that were drafted, but I was always a raisin in a bowl of buttermilk. I've always been a token.

"I've had a beautiful life. When I came out being gay was something special, now being gay is an attitude. That's why they relate being gay to 'fairies,' because fairies are mysterious. There was a mystique about it. Something magical and beautiful, and we kept it special. Once we lose that, we've lost the whole mystique of being gay."

This article also appeared in the Aug. 18 OUTLINES.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

The Scent of Skunk

by Lawrence Ferber

You may be able to locate rock outfit Skunk Anansie's releases in American record stores. But according to frontperson Skin, probably not in the right section.

"I'm like, did someone look at the cover and figure that's R&B?" says Skin, the band's bald, Black, bisexual lyricist/vocalist, noting how she's located their catalog incorrectly placed into the R&B music sections of such stores as Virgin and Tower. All because of Skin's, well, skin.

A multi-culti operation, Skunk Anansie is actually a fiercely alternative rock band from the UK. Yet American gay and club audiences probably heard them first thanks to a 1997 remixed-a-million-times hit, *Brazen 'Weep'* (Why don't you weeeep when I hurt you/ why don't you weeeep when I cut you). Everyone from Paul Oakenfold to Junior Vasquez laid their hands on the track, whipping it into something far removed from its full-length incarnation, not to mention the fiery storms the band—Skin, Ace (guitar), Cass (bass), and Mark (drums)—are generally known for. A fact some learned when picking up their albums *Paranoid* and *Sunburnt* (1994) and *Stoosh* (1996) ... even if they had to comb R&B to find them.

Racism, politics, sexuality, and personal struggle figure heavily into Skin's lyrical tapestries. And musically, Skunk Anansie

balance deep balladeering with grinding, evil guitar business. Their latest album, *Post Orgasmic Chill*, kicks off with "Charlie Big Potato," which skims the surface of everything from drum n' bass to techno to ambient ... plus the old reliables. In Europe, this formula has garnered them sold-out stadium gigs and multiple platinum status. In America, however, "we have, like, cotton or acrylic records as opposed to platinum," laughs Skin. "I mean, nobody knows us there, but I see that all changing with the new album." And remixes, of course. *Post Orgasmic Chill* was recorded in Woodstock, New York. Coming off nearly three years of relentless touring, the London-based quartet was ready for an unrushed recording bout in less metropolitan surroundings. The recording of POC also differed from past sessions in that each song was painstakingly rehearsed, rewritten, and improved upon. "Every single lyric I wrote and rewrote and rewrote," says Skin, "until I felt I really had my own perfection in terms of what I was trying to say and how I was trying to say it."

Skin's childhood registers as "happy" although she admits that she shared a room with three brothers and was extremely poor. "I look back and see it was very hard," she says, "but at the time when you're a kid you don't realize you haven't got anything—everybody on the street was in the same situation." And prior to Skunk Anansie's 1994 formation, Skin pursued a career as interior designer.

Her first Sapphic relationship occurred circa age 21. "I think it was something I'd lied to myself about for years and years," she admits, "but then you get to a point where you kind of have to say it's make or break time. You're either gonna not confront very important issues with yourself

Turn to page 26

| soul journal | by j.

| **Macy Gray—*On How Life Is* (Epic)** | When Macy sings "I'm the latest craze" on first single "Do Something," it's not entirely hyperbolic. The buzz on Macy amongst music critics has circled for over a year: "Don't miss her live!" "What a voice!" "A true original!" With her first release, Gray has validated those accolades while blazing her own trail. Essentially a collection of personal stories, *On How Life Is*, encompasses soul, blues, rock and a little bit of dis and dat. Tying it all together is Macy's raspy voice (comparison's to Billie Holiday are inevitable, but get over it). All of the insightful lyrics were written by Macy, and the passion is unmistakable over the ten tracks. One reason may be her infusion of sexuality throughout the CD, which culminates on "Caligula" and the classical rock sound of "Sex-O-Matic Venus Freak." Macy delves deeper into the essence of abusive relationships on "Still," however offers no apologies or answers ("In my last years with him there were bruises on my face ... I still light up like a candle burnin when he calls me up"). Songs like these were built for Macy and her band. Fans of current R&B who are more accustomed to loops, drum tracks and synths may be challenged by her live band sound. But it's definitely a challenge worth undertaking. The standout on *On How Life Is* is the Caribbean flavored "I Committed Murder" which recounts a woman's actions when her boyfriend's boss won't release his last pay. Like the entire release, no apologies are offered. As a matter of fact, she adds. "And I don't feel bad about it ... As far as regrets I don't have any." You shouldn't, either. Expect a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist. | **Melky Sedeck—*Sister & Brother* (MCA)** | Okay, so Melky and Sedeck are Wyclef Jean's sister and brother (respectfully). So what. The amazing thing is how these two siblings exhibit a natural sense of soul sounds with elements of hip hop, funk, world, even opera which Wyclef frequently attempts, but often lacks in sincerity. On *Sister & Brother,* Sedeck performs most of the music (which he mostly wrote) and Melky "sangs" the points home (which she mostly wrote), no joke. Melky's voice is beautiful, soothing and sassy, not unlike Sandra St. Victor at times. Her vocals are complemented by Sedeck's fresh and inventive musical structures (e.g. "Foolish Heart" is a mellow groove which suddenly adds Art Of Noise elements midsong). But it' s the culmination of "no nonsense" lyrics and funky compositions that really set this disk afire. In "Lady," Melky clearly spells out over a tight groove that "there's a difference between a woman and a ho/A woman is someone like me/Sexy and classy/Works seven days a week so her kids can eat." The funky "Attraction" recalls underground hit "Sunshine And Rain" by Joi (somebody, please give her another recording contract). But perhaps the best coupling is "High Heel Shoes" and "Diva," a declaration from a committed woman who is pressured by the committed man she is having an affair with: "You got a woman I got a man/Let's keep it that way." Upon further coercion, she snaps "What makes you think if you leave her/I'm gonna want to be her/Don't you think I see how you treat her/Nigga, please." An especially good disc for the independent woman and those who respect them. | **Ghetto Favorite** | "Meeting in My Bedroom" by Silk. | **BTW:** Why haven't you bought **Incognito's *No Time Like The Future*, yet?**

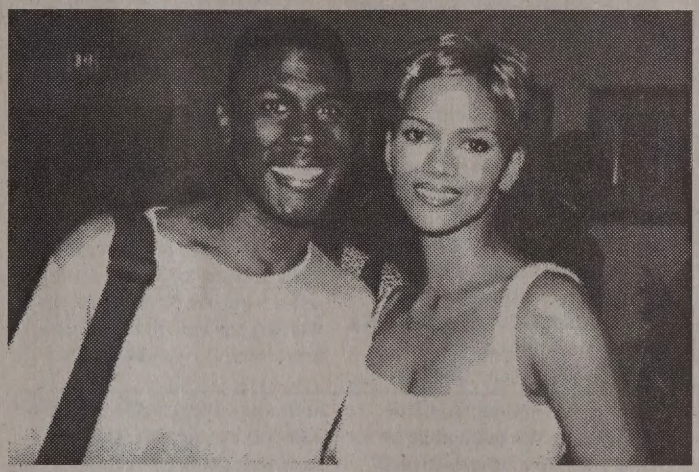
Hallewood Comes to Chicago
Dandridge Film on HBO

by Marvin Patterson

Halle Berry stars in HBO Pictures' *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* this month. Berry was in town promoting her latest project at the Chicago Theater ... a host of renowned guests attended the screening, including Martha Coolidge, the film's director (*Out to Africa , Rambling Rose*); Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., Rainbow PUSH Coalition; Jory Luster, president, Luster Products Black Heritage Foundation; Desiree Sanders, president, Afrocentric Bookstore; and representatives from Home Box Office and TCI Chicago.

Dorothy Dandridge has long been an idol of Halle Berry. "I was mesmerized by her beauty, her poise and her charisma," Berry told BLACKLINES. "I had never seen a Black woman quite like that in a film. She was someone I could admire and aspire to be like. She gave me hope." Berry made it her personal mission to be the first to tell Dandridge's story and spent six years making the project a reality. "I thought this was something I would love to do as an actress," she said. "But I also thought Dorothy never got the due she deserved in her lifetime. Someone needed to finally give her that recognition."

Director Martha Coolidge also found Dandridge's story compelling. "As I researched, I came to realize what an extraordinarily gifted performer she was," said Coolidge. "I knew she was good. But when you look at her work and realize what a beautiful woman she was; how absolutely gifted she was; how special her sensitivity was; it was inevitable that she would be a star." Coolidge notes many similarities between Dandridge and Berry. "There couldn't be a better person than Halle Berry to portray Dorothy Dandridge . She is beautiful in the same way. She also has incredible sensitivity. She is absolutely driven in the same way and, even today, feels the same outrage at limitations placed on her that Dorothy felt in her day."



BLACKLINES writer Marvin Patterson with Halle Berry. Photo by Jennifer Williams.

BELOW: Coko.

IN OTHER NEWS: As a member of the now-defunct New Jill Swing trio, SWV, **Coko** stood out as the commanding lead vocalist behind several chart-topping hits, including "Right Here, I'm So Into You" and "Weak" from SWV's double-platinum first album, *It's About Time.* Now , with the release of her long-awaited solo debut, *HOT COKO,* the former choir girl sets out to establish herself as one of contemporary music's leading female vocalists and songwriters. Despite the group's popularity and public image as a happy collective of —well—"sisters with voices," Coko says that SWV's success only intensified tensions that had begun to rattle the group.

"Things were not working out and we were growing apart. The friendship was gone and there was no unity within the group," she explains. "No one can continue to work like that because it's very hard, especially when you're not speaking and things like that. Finally, we decided that we were either gonna get it together or we would just go our separate ways," she continues. "We could never get it together, so we went our separate ways." Instead of brooding over the break-up of SWV, Coko seized the moment as an opportunity to fulfill her lifelong dream of recording a solo album. "It was a lot of fun," she says of the recording process. "It was also a lot of hard work because it's just me now and I did all the background and lead vocals. Plus, I wrote some of the songs," she said with a proud smile. In total, Coko co-wrote five songs on *HOT COKO;* "Sunshine," "You and Me," "Don't Take Your Love Away," "I Ain't Feelin You" and "All My Lovin." Having put the ups and downs of the past behind her, CoKo is optimistic about her future and excited about the creative freedom that she now has as a solo artist. "It's easier now because I can do what I want to do, wear what I want to wear and sing what I want to sing without worrying about somebody else not wanting to do it." And why should she? *HOT COKO* is undeniable proof that Coko can do good all on her own.

GURLLLology 101 thru 401 Academic Networking

by Vicky Nabors

September is knocking on the front door, school has resumed, and this column will soon mark its first year. One word comes to mind: WHEW! It was at an ILS meeting where I mistakenly commented to Jackie Anderson that BLACKLINES had become too male oriented. That resulted in a long lecture by Jackie, it also prompted me to shut-up and do something about it. Anyway, I am truly glad there has been an increase in womyn's submissions to this publication. I don't care what James Brown says, it is not "a man's world" my sistas. The challenging part of writing was my desire to have womyn in academia involved through networking. However, I found myself chasing most of my guest writers to get their submissions in by the deadline. But, I was aware that these sistas were busy living their challenging, exciting, frustrating, and stressful lives, so I wasn't pressed. I have enjoyed your comments and e-mail communications, it has encouraged me to continue.

Since I graduated in July, and don't plan to return to school until the fall of 2000, I'm changing the format of this column to address other issues faced by Black lesbian and bisexual sistas. I'm interested in the many areas of our Black, female, lesbian experience that are not often addressed within our mainstream gay community, such as single motherhood, self-esteem, step-families, religious roots that contribute to our choices and fears, and Black womyn's overall existence in the American society. My topic will depend on interviews with Black lesbians and bisexual womyn combined with current social issues. You are still invited to submit written concerns for discussion or thought. However, I'm not interested in personal gripes related to the bad choices that some lesbians and bisexual womyn make during those experimental baby-dike years; seek therapy or a support group.

I'll start this off by discussing self-esteem. As Black American womyn, the majority of us have been reared in a social environment that has attempted to instill in us strict guidelines for social behavior according to gender. These guidelines were devised by a male-dominated American society and have been passed on to us through our parents, religious organizations, schools, and the media. How many times have you been told to "Act like a lady?" "Lady" is a man-made term that attempts to further dictate a female's behavior. Of course many lesbians have rebelled against these beliefs; still, there are many more womyn both straight and lesbian who have consciously or unconsciously adopted these male-centered guidelines. The womyn's movement has worked hard to dismantle many of the oppressive structures that have historically prevented womyn from enjoying the full human experience. The problem was that the womyn's movement was based on the needs and experiences of white womyn. Black womyn's needs and experiences are very different, thus, needed to be addressed from an Afrocentric angle in order to help Black womyn learn how to empower their lives. How can a Black lesbian and bisexual sista come to terms with her sexual orientation, if she has not first come to terms with herself as Black womyn? This roller-coaster of self-disapproval is not healthy because it often leads to mental confusion and bad choices. No wonder so many Black lesbians and bi-sexual womyn suffer with unhappy lives and/or dysfunctional relationships.

Furthermore, mainstream views of beauty based on white standards still influence some Black womyn to criticize their complexions, hair texture or length, weight, and ethnic features. Interestingly, I haven't met any Black lesbians who have openly stated feelings of physical inferiority, but I've met many straight Black womyn who constantly condemn their physical appearance. Why is this? Have Black lesbians pushed these emotions deeper inside of themselves, in denial? I have a hard time believing that every Black lesbian and bisexual sista has come to terms with her mental and physical self—it's not an easy feat.

vlnabors@neiu.edu

One Drop of Blood

by Lawrence Moore

How much of an African-American are you? All you need is one drop of "Black blood" to be Black, I'm told. Some African-Americans are what we call "Mixed" (although I never hear anyone say "Hi, I am Mixed."). Why do some of these Mixed people have problems with their identity, either internally or externally? What does it mean to be a "Free Black" man in America? What does it mean to have Native Americans for forefathers? Are you the first gay, bisexual or transgender in your family?

The reason I am asking these questions is because I think the answers are some of the keys to healthy "mental health" for African-Americans. Looking at ourselves openly and honestly, accepting ourselves totally, is a step toward true liberation.

To find my answers I first went to the Chicago Public Library. They were not as helpful as I would have hoped. I came to the realization that all I had to do was research my own family. After all, I am a Black American. By understanding where I came from as an individual, I would understand where African-Americans come from.

I have been doing family research. I am something like a family historian or detective. I talk with my relatives and listen to their stories. I listen to the heroic, and the scandalous, deeds of my family. I find the exceptional, the mundane and trifling.

When I first started this project I thought it would take a week or two, perhaps even a month. I now realize it will take years. Here are some of the problems: First, men in general know very little or they are dead. As you know, men usually die sooner then women and at a higher rate. Men are not usually interested in keeping family histories. Many don't like to gossip and often won't tell you any of the dirt.

My father's family is from a small town called Tecork, Miss. According to the Mississippi State Dept. of Health, "Only deaths recorded after Nov. 1, 1912, are on file." According to one of my aunts, "They didn't keep birth, death or wedding records in Tecork for Black people. Back then if you were born, it was in the house and if you died, you were buried in the yard. You didn't get any certifications for living or dying."

Here is another important point. Many people when looking into their family history will stick with just their father's line of descent. For my purposes, this point of research would be too narrow. Just think if you removed any line of descent from your family tree, you would cease to exist. So all your ancestors have a part in the making of you.

Now and then I will write about some of the history that I am finding out about. I strongly encourage you to look into your history. In these days many of us are changing our names to reflect what we think we are and where we think we come from. Many parents are giving their children unique names to show their heritage (one word that you probably won't see changed, example: herstory). Also, many African-Americans presently don't have strong connections to their fathers or father's family. On the mother's side some of us can go as far back as our grandmother, at the same time not really knowing anything about her. Who was she? Where did she come from? What were her parents like?

In looking back on who we are, we may find out things that we didn't want to look at. Truths we didn't want to face. We may dispel lies that we cherish and hold dear. But knowing the truth and being able to accept it allows you to be a whole person. Knowing all the pieces allows the opportunity to integrate it all.

Leather Scene

by Cain Berlinger

It came as a recent shock to me that the adage "Knowledge is power" is attributed to Adolph Hitler, who commanded one of the most successful propaganda machines in our history.

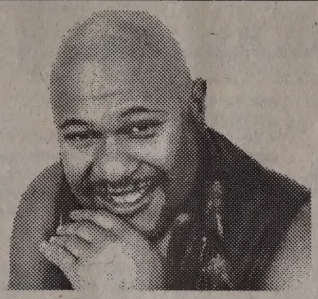
A few weeks ago I sent out a review copy of *Black Men in Leather* to a publication whose name I can't recall at this time. I received an e-mail from a so-called reviewer who informed me that he found the Leather scene "objectionable, exploitive[sic], elitist ... ." He went on to explain that there "... is enough suffering and sadness in this world without playing the same roles out in the bedroom ... ."

Needless to say I was appalled not only at his immediate judgment as a so-called objective reviewer but he dismissed the book as just more Leather Community "propaganda!" The final correspondence came after this statement: "since the rise of neo-nazi skinhead, in the '80s and early '90s that the gay crowd has adopted the look and has even taken step to forge alliances with The National Front, Aryan nation and other racist organizations!" During this whole correspondence from someone who calls himself Laz, he refused to tell me the name of his publication.

The fear here is that if one person of color has this outrageous bigoted view of one facet of our community, not just the leather community but our role as People of Color in it, then that would go a long way to explaining why the mainstream POC community and the leather POC community remain at odds. This example of ignorance and adamant refusal to be burdened with opposing facts or ideas contributes in part to the splintering of the POC community.

Black Men in Leather focuses on what it is like to be a person of color in the Leather Community from those who live the lifestyle. It is not our place to discount anyone's lifestyle experiences, even if they are not for you.

This is just a small part of the fracturing of our community. We



are now living in a society where we are judged not only by the color of our skin but by the shade of our blackness within our own community, as well. We want the society at large to accept us on our merit yet we don't cut each other the same slack we demand from the white community. It's time that changed, and narrow-minded people like this Laz character should be educated or removed from any position where his words might matter to those of like mind.

This is a struggle that is internalized and should be dealt with as we would any form of bigotry. You don't have to like drag queens, nellies, those who prefer white lovers, or our brothers who choose to wear leather but we can be tolerant and accepting and make an effort to understand where we each are coming from in our private lives.

Coming from a Black man or a White man, bigotry is still ugly.

writercain@aol.com

Thy Cup Runneth Over

The Saga Continues

by Lynnell Stephani Long

This article was supposed to be about my experience at Camp Trans. Camp Trans is a peaceful demonstration against the women-born-women only policy at Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Unfortunately, the day before I was scheduled to leave for Michigan, I got food poisoning and ended up in bed sick all weekend. I wasn't sure what I hoped to achieve at MWMF. Change would be good, but what cost was I willing to pay for it?

For years women have been meeting in the woods in Michigan, feeling safe, protected & away from male influence. Then one day a male-to-female transexual decides that she should be allowed to enter because she identifies as a woman.

These women that are born women object, telling the outsider that she doesn't belong there, and she can't possibly understand what "real" women endure from an early age. They told her she still has her male privileges. The transexual screams, "What male privileges?" She has lived her life as a woman for over 10 years. She works as a woman, lives as a woman and takes the bullshit most women take living day to day. But to the women in the woods this isn't enough. To enter their campground she must be 100% female. The transexual gets confused because as she looks at the women that are stopping her from entering, most of them are butch, masculine lesbians. She can see a few women yards away walking with a strap-on in a harness hanging over their shoulders. Proudly parading their sexual devices. Once again she finds herself angry, not fully understanding what is happening. She thinks, "This is a joke. These women refuse to allow me to enter and yet they parade their 'dicks' openly. What a double standard." This continues for years. Each year she returns to Michigan; each year she is denied entrance.

As the years go by more and more male-to-female transexuals try to acquire entrance to the festival—all proclaiming to be women. One day the group of transexuals thought they would trick the women at the gate by sending one of their prettiest girls to gain entrance. The girl agrees, but hesitantly. As the girl walks up to the gate she is greeted by smiling women. The women at the gate take her money, instruct her where she can set up camp, and allow the pretty girl to enter. The girl stands there for a moment, then asks the women is there any other information they may need. They look at each other and say no. She stood at the gate, looking at the many women behind the gates, the many women that have been allowed to enter because they are women. She looked at all the beautiful

women, felt the enormous energy, and smelled sex in the air. But what cost would she have to pay to enter? She knew if she entered those gates her friends would have thought they won, but she would have lost her spirit.

This girl, the prettiest transexual of them all, had learned the secret to life and happiness a long time ago. To her it no longer mattered if she was allowed to enter, because she knew it was deceitfulness. It did matter that if she entered she would be denying the most precious gift she has ever received, her life. Yes, she identifies as a woman, calls herself a woman, and lives as a woman. But she knew in her heart that she could never experience what those women experienced, and they can never experience what she experienced.

The girl turned around to face the women at the gate with tears in her eyes. She looked at them all, walked back to the booth and said, "I have deceived you. I am not like you, and I'm not sure if I wish to be. You see my life hasn't been easy. It's been filled with potholes, mountains and a lot of discrimination. Most of my life I lived as male because I was told to. When I was old enough to live differently I did. Because of that transition I am what you may call a male-to-female transexual.

"Deep in my heart I am woman, in my soul I am woman, and in my lovely spirit I am woman. I came to Michigan today because I wanted to experience what so many women brag about. I will leave here today proud because I didn't deny my spirit.

"I only hope that one day you women come to realize that this is a big campground, and there is room for us all."

E-mail TSReporter@aol.com; www.members.aol.com/INTERSEXx

PERSONALS

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101. **CODE:** ISO = In Search Of

Men

Cock slave. We met at the baths about 4 months ago. You asked me to be your cock slave. I foolishly let you get away. Let's talk. Please write me, with your sun sign, at **PO Box 408744, Chicago, IL 60640** and provide me with two dates with times that we can meet at the baths again. *(10)*

White Bottom 5'5" ISO mature ordinary gentlemen HIV- any race. You are: lonely, enjoy kissing, cuddling, lotsa sex. Be my boyfriend. **VM (773) 995-4091** *(10)*

Cock slave. We met at the baths about 4 months ago. You asked me to be your cock slave. I foolishly let you get away. Let's talk. Please write me, with your sun sign, at **PO Box 408744, Chicago, IL 60640** and provide me with two dates with times that we can meet at the baths again. *(10)*

GWM, tall, dark, lean, 30s, attractive, intelligent, humorous, seeks romantic, hyper-masculine GBM, hopefully for long-term monogamous relationship. **Voice 52911** *(10)*

Sexy hot top 5'9", 155#, 25 y/o, BiBM huge discreet military seeks slim/skinny bottom, any race under 37 y/o **Leo (312) 216-9101** *(9)*

Why stroke it alone: Uninhibited PGWM 30 in Lakeview seeks others into long hot mutual j/o. Exhibitionist, voyeur, nudist. Weekends, 24 hrs. **VM (312) 661-9003** *(9)*

A Good Catch. Reel me in! GWM, 37, 5'11", 180#, green eyes, brown hair & good looking. I like movies, clubs, romantic evenings and much more. Come on! Take the bait! Write if interested to **John PO Box 2081 Palatine, IL 60078-2081** *(9)*

ISO Black top 40+ extremely gentle, slow sex a/o kiss and cuddle, your place, city only. Me: white bottom 5'8" I'll satisfy you. **VM (773) 995-4091** *(8)*

Let me explain to you why it's foolish to believe in God. **Ron PO Box 2, Equality, IL 62934** *(8)*

INDPLS submissive boy, 40, 5'6", 140# seeks macho, verbal, Marlboro Red Smoking, beer drinking real man into "kick-back glory." **NL/Voice 52909** *(8)*

Seeking to find Blacks, Latinos and Whites for passionate encounters and friendship. Me: White, like being the girl. Hear greeting **Voice 52907, answer in writing NL 435** *(8)*

Steamworks, Sat. nite, May 22 & Sun a.m. Your longest B.J. Me: hotbod, big nips, deep throat. I worked on you for hours, but couldn't find you when I left. Make contact so we can do it again. **NL Box 433** *(8)*

Seeking to find Blacks, Latinos and Whites for passionate encounters and friendship. Me: White, like being the girl. **Voice 52907** *(8)*

40, Black, 190#, bottom, ISO top who is gentle and sincere. Me: work out, independent, professional, fun loving. **Voice 52831** *(8)*

Naked hung PGWM, 30, seeks others into nudity & long hot mutual j/o sessions, weekends are best, 24 hours. **VM 312 661-9003** *(8)*

Dominant SBM NYC, mature honest, atheist, strict master, sane, friendly, seeks Black/Latina submissive female 24+ to serve me. NYC nearby. (No phonies, D/D, smokers.) Maids, rollerbladers welcome! Photo, phone. **NL Box 429** *(8)*

Lonely sensuous Black man 35 years old 5'6" dark hair, brown eyes, educated. Well built physique, handsome, intelligent, open minded. I enjoy sports, quiet times and intimacy. I'm devoted and passionate, am seeking that someone special for lasting relationship. **Tyrone Rahmings #066700 FSP PO Box 181 Starke, FL 32091** *(9)*

WOMEN

Sexy, feminine, GBF, seeking beautiful soft butch/stud for fun and adventure. She must love music, nightlife and legs. **Voice52914** *(10)*

Rogers Park interracial dyke couple, 31/29, seeks similar couples for urban excursions good food diversion and real conversations. Looking to find community or build one if necessary, Give us a call. **Voice 52920** *(10)*

This very attractive single black lesbian ISO the same for lots of good hot clean fun. She must be honest, trustworthy, caring, gorgeous, intelligent, employed, drug and disease free, mentally stable, have a sense of humor, and have her own transportation. If you're up to 5'4", no more than 120#, between 30 and 40 yrs young and fit the criteria above, then page me. (Please no studs, bisexuals, or heavies). **773 781-7880** *(12)*

Sexy, feminine, GBF, seeking beautiful soft butch/stud for fun and adventure. She must love music, nightlife and legs. **Voice52914** *(10)*

34 y/o GBF who's very difficult, stubborn, verbal, moody and spoiled. ISO a soft stud who's strong enough to deal with a person life myself. No full figure women, race unimportant. **Pager 226-5634** *(10)*

This very attractive lesbian is ISO a playmate for good hot fun. She must be black or of Latin descent, fem, attractive, intelligent, have a sense of humor, drug and disease free (light smoker OK), mentally stable, independent, and active (in many ways), between 35-50, 5'1"-5'7" up to 150 #. No studs. Pgr 773 226-1518

SWF 50 butch seeking single, gay, classy, feminine, SBF/SHF 43-50 for stable, loving, respectful, honest relationship. No drugs/alcohol: healthy. If you like pampering and are willing to pamper, page me at **(312) 562-1238** *(9)*

This 39 year old SBF at 110#, 5'4", attractive, independent and honest who lives on the northside of Chicago is looking for a soulmate between 27-45, who is cut to attractive. Weight proportional to height. Please no drug users. You can call me at **(312) 905-8239** *(9)*

ISO a feminine single female, must be attractive, sexy, over 5', under 150#, non-smoker, between the age of 25-40, mature, intelligent, outgoing, trustworthy, honest, open for adventure and fun, but at the same time serious about life. (Myself SBF and all the above. You won't be disappointed.) Race unimportant. **Pager (312) 562-0353** *(8)*

GBF ISO GBF over 30. No smoking, drugs, drinking or studs. Stimulating conversationalist must have job. Romantic. Have own interest. **NL 262** *(9)*

Interests: yoga, meditation, drumming, picnics, Shakespearean plays, bicycling, fests, rollerblading and reading. I'm spiritual, African-American, college educated, kind, sensitive, creative, soft stud/butch, fun and positive minded. I'm 38 y/o. No smoking please. All colors welcome. **Beep (312) 358-6587**

Is it possible to find a perfect relationship in such an imperfect world? Professional, 35 y/o, soft stud, cute, knows how to treat a womyn. Has eclectic tastes in music, arts and womyn. **Pager (773) 560-6242** *(8)*

GBF 40+ professional, playful, serious about success and in search of more out of life — would love to share a stress free, fun filled summer with employed, self assured, drug and disease free spirit(s). No bisexuals, gay experienced preferred. If you are 35-50 years young and want to live in the present and enjoy each moment to the fullest, do not hesitate write or e-mail me at **new** e-mail address: **aol.com.LOKN4JOYor NL Box 254** *(10)*

SBF over 45 n/s, open, religious, drug free, disease free. Seeking friendship leading to permanent relationship. Tired of lonely nites. ISO over 45 BF over 5'1" under 5'5" wt proportional to ht. No full figure, please no bi, bi curious or closet cases. Drug free, disease free, employed, independent. Very busy schedule but will find time for you. All calls will be answered at **(708) 849-8759** *(9)*

Hip-hop Martha Stewart Seeks Rockin' Ass Grrl. This 26 year old blue eyed boobie goddess, tofu-eating carnivore, film and art junkie, writer, reader (who couldn't be sweeter) wants a date with wonder woman. If you're good hearted, interesting, smart and funny, let's meet. **Voice 52856** *(8)*

Sexy, passionate femme who is new to the life. ISO studs who are 24 and up who are willing to show me the ropes. I can be reached at **(773) 201-8389.** I will respond to all calls.

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
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- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, e-mail or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

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- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

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FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

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Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	$_____

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

SKUNK from 22 for the rest of your life, or you're just gonna come clean. I think it's important to come clean to yourself, although not necessarily to everybody on the planet. But to yourself, I think you've got to be honest." One thing Skin honestly feels it there's a definite difference between women and men. "Oh, I think men and women are very different," she testifies. "I think white and Black people are very different as well. I don't think we're the same underneath the skin. I think our differences are the result of a smattering of both societal and inherent qualities. I think there's certain things that I would have no choice about. I didn't learn how to be a bisexual, and didn't get it into my head it was a good idea. It wasn't a choice. I'm attracted to both women as well as men, and I think more women than men at this point in my life. So in that way I can see there's things we're born with, because if we were given a choice, most of us, especially at age 14 or whatever, would rather just be the same as everybody else. At the same time I do think humans learn a lot of negative things. They learn to be abusive, they learn violence, anger and aggression—negative aggression."

Indeed, Skin confesses to her share of unpleasant confrontations with aggression, hate and ignorance thanks to simply being Black. To wit, on Skunk Anansie's first trip to the USA, a label executive repeatedly insisted she meet with head of their Black music division. "I said 'why's that?'" recalls Skin. "He said 'because I think you'd get on.' I asked why he thought that. See, I know the Black department there was R&B, basically. It doesn't change for artists like rock artists. I may be Black but I'm NOT making R&B music, so what's the point of me meeting him?"

Skin contends that bisexuality hasn't made anything easier either. But she ultimately attests that negativity from such ignorance and prejudice should be disregarded. "I think it can be like a poison. If you draw too much on people's negative responses, it poisons how you feel about yourself. It stops you moving forward."

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $24/12 issues (hdcpy only). Malebox2@aol.com

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WE ARE A residential facility for people with AIDS, Lincoln Park location. Immediate help needed in kitchen and reception. Call for information on these and other volunteer opportunities. **Bonaventure House (773) 327-9921 ext. 124.** *(8/99)*

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PROJECT VIDA'S Young Men's Group provides a free support group for young MSM's ages 15-24 who are gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning. Please call **Carlos or Ricky (312) 458-0877.**

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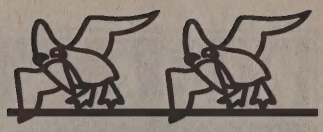

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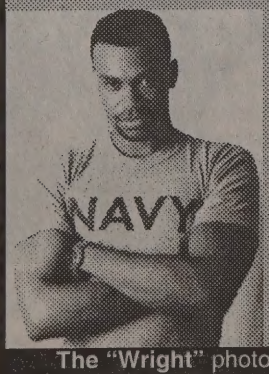

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What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Advice with an attitude!

Is Life just a Cabaret, Ol' Chum?

Dear Readers:

September is here! Summer must make her exit and fall enters from stage left. As I sit here and reflect on summer and those scorching rays, I always did find it so amazing how often life imitates art. I ventured recently to see the touring production of *Cabaret* at the Shubert Theater with Teri Hatcher as Sally Bowles and Norbert Leo Butz as the Emcee. It was an unbelievable show because not only did it entertain the audience but it also educated its audience regarding the cost of complacency. The 1972 production starring Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey failed in comparison because it was toned down a great deal by director Bob Fosse. Basically, the production hinted regarding its homosexual story line. I guess it was a sign o' the times. This is definitely not the case in this updated late 1990s version. The graphic depiction of the late 1920/early 1930 infamous Berlin nightlife is brutally honest. The touring production was dripping with decadent, raw sexuality complete with homoeroticism; life was truly fabulous within the cheesy Kit Kat Club.

However, it was the daylight "outsiders" had to watch out for because the political writings was on the wall! The increased reality of Nazi Fascism permeating stealthily just beyond the Kit Kat Club's borders is just waiting for the appropriate opportunity to swing into action. Yet, many German people, as portrayed by the Fraulein Schneider character in the show, were too afraid to act. Sally Bowles and the Kit Kat club performers became oblivious to the political events of their times and buried themselves in drugs and partying, too complacent to act. Then, when they realized what was up, it was too late.

Unfortunately, due to complacency and fear, Nazism reeked havoc on Germany and the world. The rest is history. The show ends with no one left in the Kit Kat Club, just hallowed music —everyone was in a concentration camp. The Emcee—in concentration camp drag complete with a pink triangle—was gunned down by Nazis. When I left the theater, I had a huge knot in my stomach and my flesh was crawling. I had clearly been shaken by this incredible theatrical experience. As I quietly reflected on this experience, I realized often life really does imitate art.

Now, I know many of you readers are wondering what does this production have to do with African-Americans? Actually, a lot folks! I often have similar discussions with many of my friends of color and we've often pondered a similar question: What would happen if those blatant, racist times returned here in the United States—slavery for example. Who would sell out? Who would bury themselves into drugs and liquor? Who would stand up and resist? Who would leave? Who would turn you in? Kinda makes you think, huh?

Really, in actuality we do not have to venture too far into the past. Have you had an opportunity to look around a bit lately? Racism is still alive and kickin' folks. One only needs to look at the increased hate crimes towards people of color including police brutality. But, let us not forget to mention the religious zealots attempting to "convert" Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Transgendered individuals into "normal" heterosexuals. These increased activities should be enough for the GLBT community to take heed that a change ain't a comin' unless we become more proactive. Yes folks, the fat lady is singing quite the familiar tune: the gay nineties can also be treacherous just like those in Berlin during the 1930s.

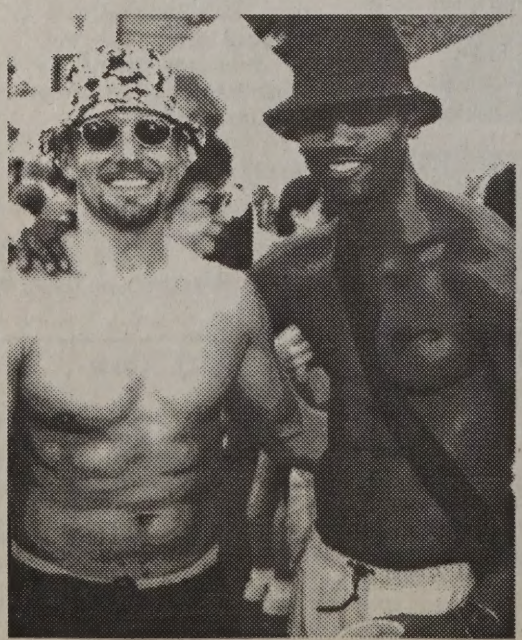
In short, life at best can be dichotomous at times and while it is important for us to live it up in our clubs and get our drank on, it's also up to us to make our voice and opinions known.

It is basically up to us to take responsibility to make sure our house is in order because as we all know, unfortunately, some rain must fall before the sun comes out. So the question still remains: Where will we be if that day comes? Will we have our house together or will we simply allow the music to still play at the Cabaret?

Just some food for thought.

Take Care of yourself and each other, Readers.

As always, Peace and Blessings. Questions? Comments? Please, e-mail me! PrestonMSW@aol.com.



Northalsted Market Days ...

images to remember

by Israel Wright, Brian McGee

BLACK PEARLS

by Sukie de la Croix

Trianon ...

"The Trianon was where Linen & Things is now? Marshalls ... that was where the Trianon was. It later became Le Ray's, which was the Black bar on the North Side. Trianon, it was just the opening of a new gay bar. It opened in '82 or '83 I'm not quite sure. Fred Hands was one of the DJs there and I worked lights with him in the booth. I really wanted to bartend, but being Black it was harder to get them to put you behind the bar than sticking you up in a booth. Oh yes, especially in the white bars. Same old stereotype, 'Oh he might steal from my register ...' That was the mentality. That kind of thing went on, so I worked lights, and plus they all knew I was a party boy, because that's how I met everybody. I actually met the majority of the people I knew from just being at Carol's (Speakeasy), me and my roommate Curt, and we would just be in the corner by the front door dancing, we'd do our drugs and dance and Allan was our waiter, he would come by and ... 'are you guys OK with beers' ... 'bring us another one' ... and we'd just dance and dance and dance ... " — Ray Thomas

Drag ...

"The first time I did drag was in '83, it was a Toys For Tots benefit at the Baton. I did 'Love Sensation' in a red taffeta dress and made $385.75c in seven minutes ... (Laughs) ... and Jim Flint told me that I was a natural. And I was like ... 'No!' I was a little terrified about it. I did do Miss Gay Chicago, I think it was '85. I was 4th runner up. I wore a one-sleeve beaded Halston gown, with black long gloves and someone who worked at Trianon, she used to make suede swimsuits and she gave me a blue suede bikini with a wrap skirt. I was really thin. My stomach was completely flat." — Ray Thomas

The Queen's Shack ...

"Yes, now I remember seeing that when I was really young on the bus riding by on Clark Street. It was around Illinois, Hubbard and Clark, where that parking lot is. I think it was like a little shack, and I remember my mom saying something about female impersonators go there, while we were on the bus." — Ray Thomas

Martin's Den ...

"I went to Martin's Den twice. After the middle '70s I became very uncomfortable in most all-Black clubs, the reason why was that everytime I turned around there was always a fight, and I'm one of those types of people who just hate violence, especially when you're out in public, and it was all over some bullshit. So I was like 'OK I've had enough of this.'

"Even Le Ray's, which was there where Trianon was, it was a good three years before I even went in, and I went in one night with Billy C., who used to do sound and lights at the Baton, who has now passed away, and while I was standing there to check our coats, somebody hit a guy in the neck with a beer bottle and a piece of glass went in his neck and blood is shooting out everywhere, and I'm like 'get me out of here.' That was a Black bar. No matter what, everytime I went to a Black bar there was always a fight, so I became very discouraged.

"Growing up on the Near North Side of Chicago, I had never, never really been around one set group of people. I grew up around every nationality possible, so I felt more comfortable that way. Even though when I came out and was going to Another Place, at first I was very comfortable, but then once all the fighting started I was 'get me out of here,' because I don't want to be a statistic, and I was mugged over by Another Place too, looking down the barrel of a gun ... like 'I'm going back north ... (laughs) ... where its safe.'" — Ray Thomas

Send your stories to Sukie de la Croix at BLACKLINES. He also interviews over the phone or by e-mail sukie@wwa.com

For the last three years I've been interviewing and publishing the memories of lesbians and gay men about their lives in Chicago. The interviews are published in Chicago Whispers (OUTLINES) and Black Pearls (BLACKLINES). Most of the interviewees are either first name or anonymous. I am having difficulty locating African-American lesbians over 40, who spent the '70s and before in Chicago. Most lesbian groups are women only and therefore I have no entree for the purposes of meeting people.

At present, through no fault of my own, I am writing the history of Lesbian and Gay Chicago, without including the experiences of African-American women, and I'm very uncomfortable about this.

I call on my friends in the Chicago women's community to pass this message on to interested parties. And I call on the many lesbian and women's groups in Chicago to bring this matter up at your next meeting.

My reason for publishing your memories comes from my deeply held conviction that our history was stolen away from us due to homophobia and racism. We have all heard the "campfire" stories of senior members of our community. However, it is so important for us all to share our stories of the past with young people. I would argue that it's our political "duty" to educate them, because both you and I know, the "straight" world out there isn't going to do it.

I really do need your help with this one. Please e-mail sukiedelacroix@iname.com

Any suggestion? I do my interviews over the phone.

SO. AFRICAN JOURNALIST TO SUE BLOOD BANK

The news editor of Radio KFM in Cape Town, South Africa, Andrew Barnes, has promised to sue before the International Court of Justice after the Western Province Blood Transfusion Service refused his donation because he is gay.

"Everyone is being urged to go [give blood] so I went to Picbel Arcade in Strand Street," Barnes told the CAPE ARGUS newspaper. "I was asked to fill in a form, asking for medical history, any recent operations or current medication. Then there was a section on HIV and AIDS, asking about sexual history. One of the questions asked was whether, as a male applicant, you have ever had sex with another male. I circled 'yes' on the form."

Barnes was then informed by a nurse that his blood was unwanted.

"I told her I was gay and was engaged to my partner," Barnes said. "I was shocked and asked her why my blood was not good enough. She replied that, according to the World Health Organization, gay men were a high-risk group with regard to the spreading of HIV. ... I've spoken to the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and my complaint is with their national executive. I'll take it to the International Court of Justice in The Hague if I have to. All people sympathetic to gay rights should consider boycotting the call to donate blood until the rules have changed. Homosexual men are not the highest risk group [in South Africa]. I don't think they should have a blanket ban on gay men giving blood."

The blood services' medical director, Arthur Bird, acknowledged: "I accept totally that these type of questionnaires and safety margins that we have do cast a net. We accept that we sometimes sweep in safe donors unnecessarily. But that's the nature of the beast." — *Rex Wockner*

World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

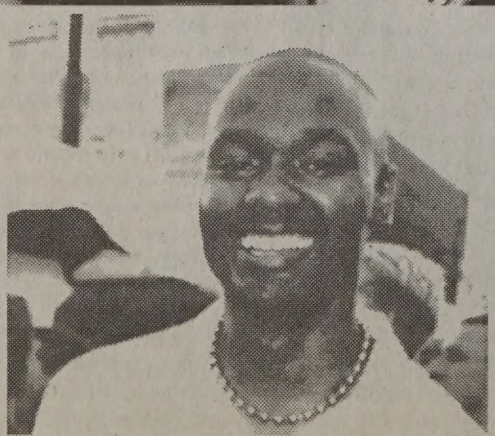
Terror with a 28.8

As if you needed another reason to dread the coming millennium. In a development that could be lifted from a TV mini-series plot, the Federal Bureau of Investigation warns that the year 2000 could bring an increase in overall violent activity, including the possibility that cyber-terrorists will use the Y2K computer bug as a way to conceal their crimes. Apparently the domestic terrorism department of the FBI believes that the special meaning of the new millennium may encourage violent behavior by particular groups. For instance, members of the faction known as Christian Identity may follow their teachings and prepare for the Second Coming by taking violent action against their foes. Although the agency has no solid indication that computer systems will be targeted, it is taking a closer look at the strengths and weaknesses of the computerized infrastructure.

Interestingly, efforts to battle possible computer-related attacks may be made more difficult because of complications caused by the Y2K bug. Even attempts to correct the bug by hiring programmers could create an opportunity for more instances of cyberterrorism. It is also feared that foreign computer companies conducting Y2K work could be compromised by foreign governments and unlawful entities to gain access to American computer companies.

▼▼▼▼▼

Contact me at gemini1@nwu.edu.



PHOTOS OF NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS BY ISRAEL WRIGHT AND BRIAN MCGEE

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GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
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K.C. Productions at Cotton Club, Sundays.....312-341-9787
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MW,D, TheRails@aol.com.....708-802-1705
THE VIX: A Jazz Supperclub, 2814 N. Halsted
MW,D,R,GS 773-529-3999

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

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chicagoblackpride@yahoo.com
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TransGenesis trans support.....800-805-4052
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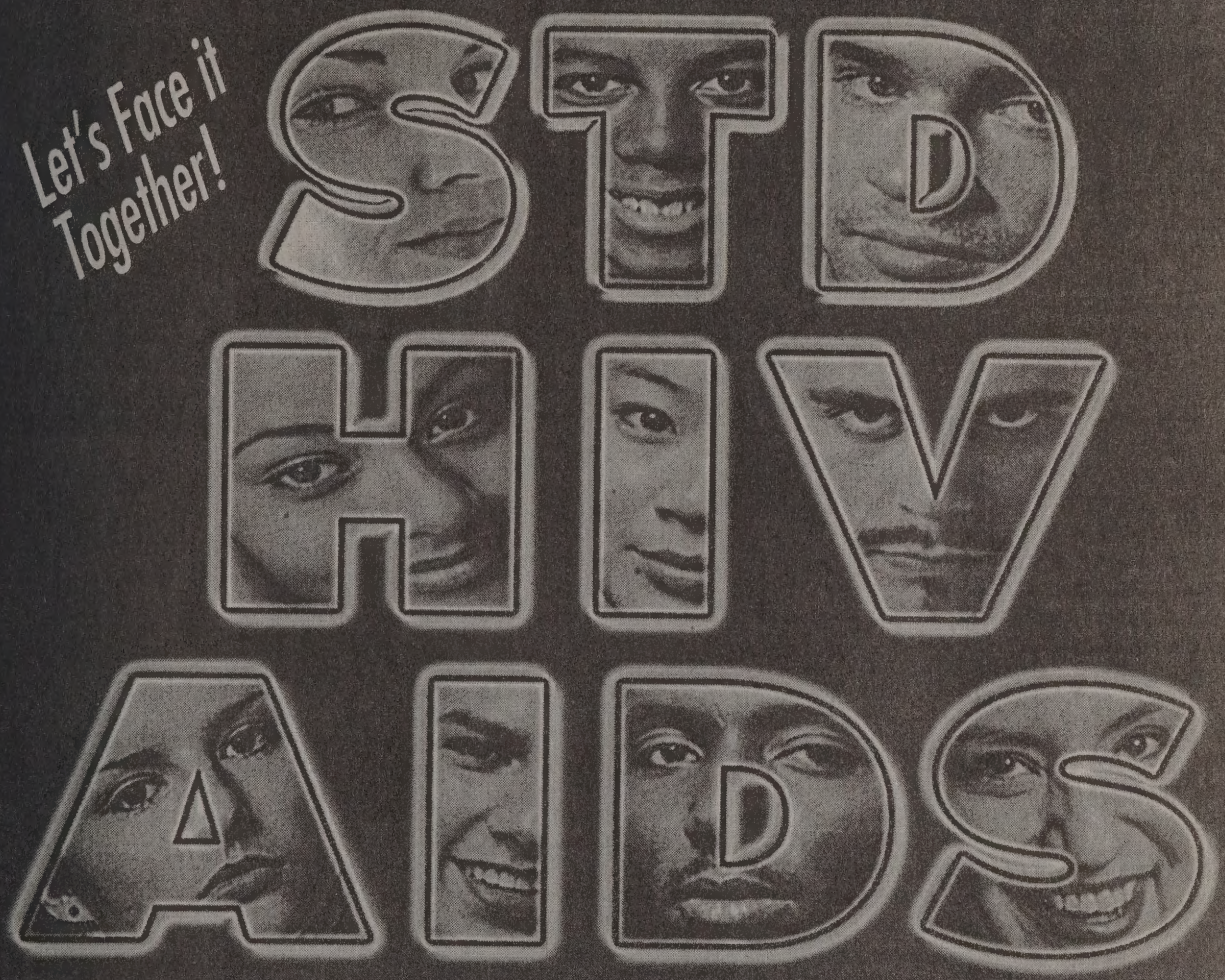

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BLACK LINES

October 1999
Volume 4, Number 9

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Managing Coordinator
La Jaunessee Jordan

Senior News Reporter
Robert Schultz

Photography Israel Wright, Brian McGee, Lynnell S. Long, R. Glanton

Art/Design:
Otis Richardson

Editorial Contributors:
Vicky Nabors, Janice Layne, Harry Tyner, Andrew Davis, Jon Dallas, Lynnell S. Long, Cain Berlinger, Kathleen Rose Winter, Preston Schumaker, Lester Davis, Shamara Riley, Jean Pierre Campbell, C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Charles Clifton, Dwayne Sanders, Vernita Gray, Rhonda Mundhank, J., Samantha Mattox, Byron Stewart, Sherri Jackson, Donna Rose, Patricia Mickey, Leslie D. McClellan.

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Tracy Baim

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Terri S. Klinsky, Kathleen Ulm, Israel Wright, Daniel Finley, Robert Schultz, Jean Young

Editorial: D. Jean Albright
Administrative:
John Pennycuff, Raven Rodriguez

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: **outlines@suba.com**

World Wide Web: outlineschicago.com

LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

I don't think I could ever stop loving someone once I've loved them—ex-lovers included. So I understood my lover's pain when her ex-lover died. Now we all tell stories of the ex—some good, some not so good. But for the most part most people don't wish them dead. This is kind of a strange spot to be in, the current lover helping your partner go through the news, the pain, the "Should I or shouldn't I go?"

I have a former lover who is significantly older than me who is not in the best health. I am concerned that in the near future I might be faced with what my sweetie is going through now. Even though that relationship occurred many years ago, I know that I would be devastated. I am still very good friends with most of my ex-lovers.

I try to be there for my lover. I try to let her know that whatever she wants to do or say is okay. I try to let her know that I will do whatever she needs me to do. I try to give her space, yet to be there for her. I don't know what to say. I tell her that I could not imagine how badly I would feel if I lost someone with whom I shared my dreams and fears, my goals and failures, someone with whom I shared intimacy, even though things didn't work out.

She told me she wanted me to go with her. We went to the first relative's home We were both treated very warmly and respectfully. It was obvious that I am the current lover. It didn't matter. I had some anxiety related to going. It was quickly erased shortly after I entered the home. That went well. On to the next relative's home. Anxiety creeps up once again. There is nothing but warmth and stories about the deceased. That tells me something about who she was. I watched many lesbians enter the service—young and old, butch and femme. Lesbian after lesbian after lesbian. I had never met her, yet I was emotional about her passing, possibly because my sweetie was emotional, possibly because of what everything I saw and heard told me about her, possibly both.

Today was a difficult day for my lover, as was it for me. We never know how we're going to respond to someone's passing. At the time of my grandmother's funeral, I could not bring myself to get out of the car. It was as if it was too hard to say "Goodbye." And I think of myself as a strong individual, able to do anything. Yet, weakness overcame me.

I had no intention of writing what I wrote today.

I never really intend to share so much of me. It just happens. And because it happens, it's supposed to happen. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness in sharing your comments about my work whenever readers take the time to do so. Please continue to let myself and the other writers know whatcha thinkin' 'bout.

[An editorial by Jordan in BLACKLINES won an honorable mention in the national gay and lesbian media awards, the Vice Versa Awards. OUTLINES also received 13 awards.]

LETTER: Black Pride organizers

As President of the committee for Chicago Black Pride, I find it necessary to respond to the write-up in your August issue covering Chicago's first annual Black Pride.

The Black Pride Committee was formed in 1999 involving persons of different social groups, and organizations, in the Chicago area. Sub-committees were also formed to help plan and organize for a successful weekend. All official events held that particular weekend were sponsored by the committees as a whole and not one particular group, club or organization. The Black Pride Committee had no jurisdiction over private events also held that weekend.

Therefore, I find it necessary to correct an issue in regard to our main event, which was held at the Irving Park Beach. This was the Black Pride Festival, not the Chicago Friends Picnic. The Pride committee has worked diligently to correct this very issue among committee members and would like to be consistent at all costs.

On behalf of the Pride Committee, its Board of Directors, and myself, we certainly do appreciate the fantastic coverage, and the great shots.

Sincerely, Mr. Kenneth Pickens, President
(chicagoblackpride@yahoo.com)

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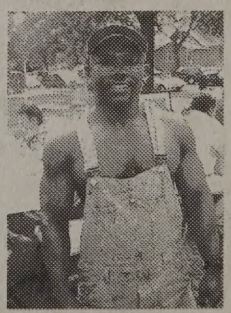
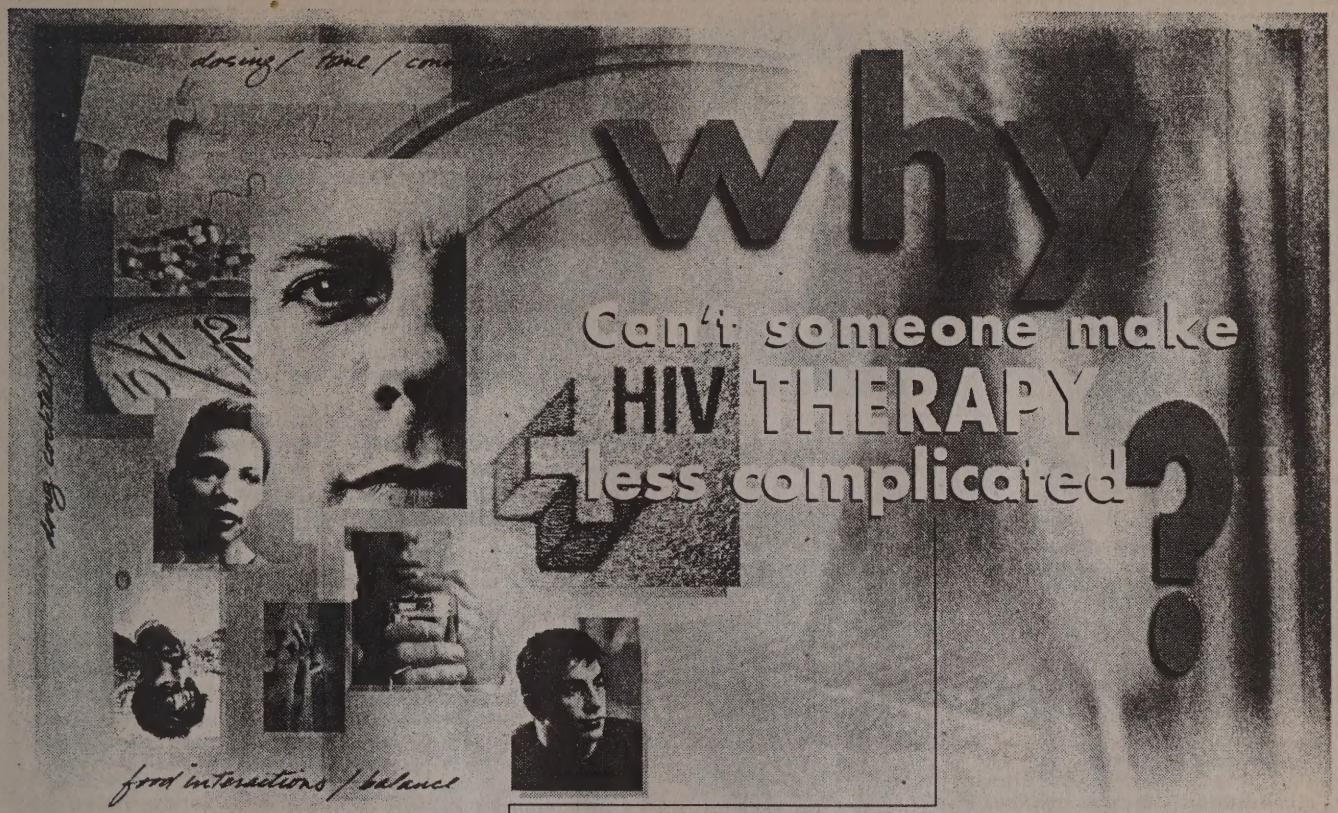


Images from the annual Festival of African-American Foods in Oak Park. Photos by Israel



Once Daily
SUSTIVA™
efavirenz

SUSTIVA™ is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy. Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

Now listed among preferred anti-HIV drugs in government guidelines.[1]

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at http://www.sustiva.com
For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at http://www.hivatis.org

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

FOR HIV

Finally, a once daily medication to treat HIV.

SUSTIVA. It's about time.

www.sustiva.com

1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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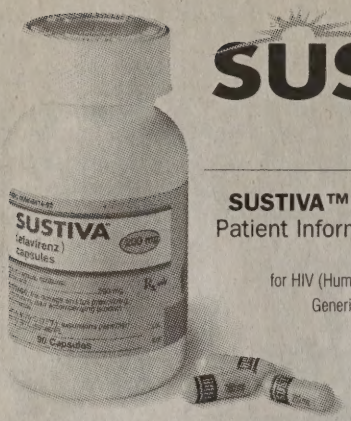
DUPONT DuPont Pharmaceuticals



Once Daily

SUSTIVA™

efavirenz

SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules

Patient Information about SUSTIVA*

(sus-TEE-vah)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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DuPont Pharmaceuticals
Wilmington, DE 19880
Issued September, 1998

Generator, Vix close

After seven years of being one of a handful of venues that catered to the Black gay community, the Generator nightclub has closed. Eddie Watson, the club's manager, said that on Sunday morning, Sept. 12, he received a call from the Generator's owners saying the club was closed. Watson expressed dismay that the Generator's closing meant that 26 Generator employees no longer had jobs. Although the Generator had faced competition in recent years from newer entries into the market, during the last Friday the club was open, sources say, the club was packed.

According to Watson, the owners said that they did not want to subject their patrons to police raids and hence the closure. Watson said that on the last Thursday night the club was open, law enforcement entered the club twice. Watson stated that while at the club the officers questioned those present about illegal activities alleged to have occurred at the club.

Watson expressed his desire to remain in the nightclub business and said he was exploring his options with potential partners.

The Generator's closing was the second closing in 30 days for an establishment catering to Black gays here. The Vix also shuttered its doors in September after being in business for over a year.

Stewart wins award

Openly gay actor Byron Stewart won the Black Theatre Alliance/Ira Aldridge Award for Best Leading Actor in a Play (Drama or Comedy) for his performance as Sir Damone in Dr. Shirlene Holmes' *Conversation With a Diva*. He will also receive an After Dark Award Oct. 11.

Black Pride set

Chicago will host its second Black Pride Festival, "Independence 2000," the 4th of July weekend—June 29-July 3, 2000. This weekend is an annual gathering celebrating the Black lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate and transgender community in the Windy City.

Independence '99 was enjoyed by over 10,000 brothas and sistas and was a vast success. The theme for next year's event is "An Explosion of Heritage," Independence 2000 will feature activities for the entire Black LesBiGayTrans community including live performances, cultural events, seminars and a lakefront festival. Evening activities will include parties hosted by various organizations and bars.

The official host hotel is the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 S. Martin Luther King Dr. Reservations can be made (312) 567-1234 or 1-800-233-1234, ask for the Chocolate City/The Rails/Chicago Black Pride rate.

Volunteers and sponsors are still needed. Call (773) 731-8665, or e-mail the group at chicagoblackpride@yahoo.com

Dramatist and poet Ntozake Shange (right) at the African Festival of the Arts in August, with her sister Ifa Bayeza, director of the Chernin's Center for the Arts. Photo by Jean Young

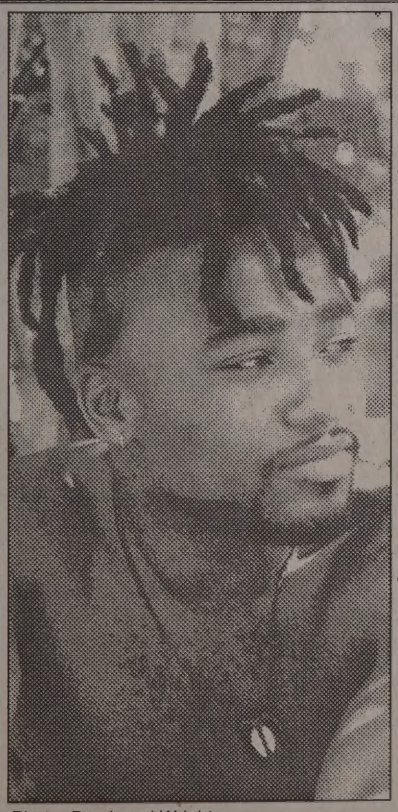

Photo By: Israel Wright

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Meets the first Saturday each month.

Saturday ***October 2, 1999 " Business Meeting " 2pm***
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Thursday ***October 14, 1999 Affinity and ADODI***
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773-324-0377

ADODI, is the plural of ***ADO***, a Yoruba word that describes a man who loves another man. More than just a description of partners, in Africa, the ***ADODI*** of the tribe were revered as shamans, sages and leaders.

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or visit our website at WWW.ADODI.COM
email us at **ADODICHICAGO@YAHOO.COM**

Angela Davis speaks

by Robert Schultz

Internationally known social and political activist Angela Davis spoke to overflow crowds at the South Side's Woodson Regional Library, and for De Paul's campus at St. Vincent's Church, in September. Davis, who came out as a lesbian in OUT magazine more than a year ago, said that America is using incarceration as its first response to social problems whereas Davis believes that prisons should be the last alternative. The impact of the over-reliance on prisons is having a disproportionate and deleterious impact on communities of color, Davis argued.

Davis explained that the prison system should be thought of as the prison industrial complex. Seemingly disconnected phenomenon such as the calls for metal detectors in high schools, "three strikes" criminal laws, the privatization of prisons, and the disappearing social safety net can be more readily examined when the public discourse is focused on this prison industrial complex.

Even though the current economy is strong, Davis argued that the economy has left many people behind and that wealth is concentrated more firmly than ever in fewer hands. Davis said that society has segregated the politically and economically disenfranchised from the public consciousness and as a consequence many believe that such groups don't count. Davis appealed for a new conception of democracy: economic democracy, racial democracy, gender democracy, democracy with respect to gender orientation as she argued for a more critical and humane examination of the impact of the social policy on incarceration and prisons.

Davis with Professor Lisa Brook and Dr. Harvette Grey at DePaul Cultural Center Sept. 10. Photo by Jean Young

Angela & Ruth

by Donna Rose

It has been quite a while since last moved to climb stairs to sit at keyboard, and write ... however, I have felt rejuvenated from my attendance at Ms. Angela Davis's address, which was about the prison industrial complex, and strategizing how to address the needs of our times. It is as ominous as it sounds ...

Before I get comfortable with my own opinion, I wanted to first acknowledge and thank the many number of organizations, and their respective memberships, and individuals who made the Sunday reception terrific for Ms. Ruth Ellis, Aug. 29 at the Film School of the Art Institute, especially: Affinity, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, Adodi, Lambda Publications/BLACKLINES/OUTLINES, J. Young; Yvonne Welbon; Executive Sweet; Donna Todd (beautiful table!); National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum; the Art Institute Film School staff; Khuli Zaban; Barbara Ransby; my dear, sista-friends at Literary Exchange, who made an idea come to be.

It was a delight to look out and see such an intergenerational, interracial, multiple language, interattitudinal crowd of colored folk at both events!

Turn to page 10

What can you do to help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS?

Chicago's HIV Prevention Planning Group, in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Public Health, is looking for individuals to serve on its city wide community alliance.

You may be eligible for membership if you:

Are a resident with knowledge of HIV/AIDS issues
or
Can represent populations at risk for HIV infections
or
Are active in the community
and

For an application or more information call (312) 747-9661 TT/TDD (312) 744-2960

Richard M. Daley Mayor

Sneila Lyne, RSM Commissioner

IN LOVING MEMORY

BARRETA WILLIAMS
JULY 27, 1999

CHRISTINE PAIGE
MARCH 22, 1996

QUONA CLARK
MARCH 2, 1993

TO THE *MURDERERS* OF OUR SISTERS: **HOW DARE YOU!**

HOW DARE YOU TAKE IT UPON YOURSELF TO TAKE SUCH BEAUTIFUL HUMAN LIVES OR ANY LIFE.
HOW DARE YOU CAUSE SO MUCH PAIN TO ALL WHO KNEW AND LOVED THEM.
HOW DARE YOU INVADE OUR COMMUNITY WITH SUCH A HORRENDOUS TRAGEDY.
HOW DARE YOU BRING BLACK CLOUDS OF DISMAY OVER OUR RAINBOW OF HOPE AND UNITY.
I HOPE THAT YOUR CONSCIENCE EXPLODES WITH GUILT.
I HOPE THAT EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH REMINDS YOU OF THESE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
I PRAY THAT YOU FIND IN YOUR SOUL TO ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCEPT JUSTICE.

TO OUR ABSENT ANGELS: **MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU**

DramaGENESIS,
Flame Monroe (original author),
and the Transgender Community

ENERGY 88.7 FM WLUW
Saturdays at 6:00pm

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Restoring Your Immune System!

- Oct 2-3, 1999

Sponsored by: Serono Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology, Hoffmann-La Roche & Abbott Laboratories

Top Tips To Fighting The Flu!

- Oct 9-10, 1999

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A Woman's Guide To Preventing Breast Cancer!

- Oct 16-17, 1999

Sponsored by: Walgreens

The African American Community & AIDS: The Crisis Within!

- Oct 23-24 & Oct 30-31, 1999

Sponsored by: Serono Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Roxane Laboratories, DuPont Pharmaceuticals

If you'd like information on HIV, AIDS, *or sexually transmitted disease prevention, treatment or support services, call* 1-800-AID-AIDS. *To receive a taped copy of any program, call* HIV Talk Radio Project *at* 312-541-Talk.

The Latest on HEALTH & PERSONAL WELL-BEING

DONNA from 8

Now, what do these two sistahs have in common? They both graced our fair city within two weeks of each other, and both are creating legacies for all to witness ... both imbued with a sense of purpose, and women-loving sistas!

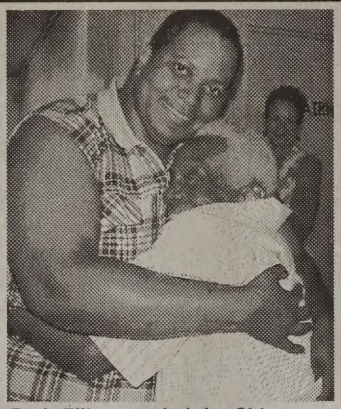
The similarities are more complex, and surprisingly subtle. Angela Davis spoke to the crowd on the prison industrial complex, and the ironic tragedy it is for a democratic society to put more time and money to building prisons than to address issues that seem to indicate environmental stressors and indicators ... like, housing, education of the citizens; healthcare ... a frighteningly swiftly disappearing benefit for the worker ... but our society is geared up to warehouse all who dare be aberrant, which for colored folk also tends to imply criminality ... if you are different, you must be 'bad"... in effect, rendered criminal by societal mores.

By her word, Ms. Ruth had never been closeted ... she just lived her life ... living a sense of community; providing shelter for young, queer, folk new to the north, and in need of a decent bed and lodgings ... what is remarkable about Ruth, is that she is actively leading a lesbian life of service to others ... she gets groceries for other seniors in her building [where she lives in Detroit], yet she's likely the oldest resident herself at 100 years young! Her message, so deceptively subtle in its simplicity, was simply to love.

Both women do ... that is clear, and both love fiercely in each her way.

That is the strength and the radical content of their respective works.

I got the impression that no one expected an audience for Angela Davis. I hope the evidence corrected that erroneous notion that the auditorium at Woodson Library—which only held 200 seats—would somehow be adequate for this sista! Unbelievable! There were up to 300 people gathered in the lobby, out in front, and then the 200 seated inside ... many folk left, since there was no clear idea of a plan. And a rather slow address of the problems as they occurred. Essentially, poor logistics/planning/people moving ... and yet the people waited and eventually got chairs from the library to sit in lobby ... speakers appeared from "nowhere," so that those gathered could hear the words.



Ruth Ellis attended the Chicago premiere of the film about her life. She's pictured left with LaJaunessee Jordan, and right with filmmaker Yvonne Welbon. Photos by Tracy Baim and Jean Young

Some info was frightening. That the numbers of incarcerated persons has grown in leaps and bounds since the 1960s with 200,000 people jailed; 500,000 jailed, and up to more than one million today; numbers with all folk detained, jailed imprisoned, in detention, or on parole exceeds *five million*. That only Russian prison stats rival the U.S., interesting—the free nation rivals the former communist regime. This data is ominous in that a democratic state spends more resources on building jails and prisons than educating its citizens, attending to healthcare, housing, and/or employment.

Ms. Davis observed that the poor are becoming poorer, and that the gap between those who can afford to eat and be sheltered will widen between those who can't do the aforementioned. This results in the lack of hope ... the lack of attainment due to lack of access, and all contribute to more prisons to warehouse all who will surely break some rule or another when rules don't ever seem to work in YOUR favor. Davis was only philosophically (with me, who else) divergent on a couple of points ... I don't attempt to glamorize in any way violent, criminal behavior. I, too, have visited prisons, as part of a citizen's review board, and not everyone imprisoned is entirely innocent. However, it does seem that certain segments of society are more likely to be imprisoned than others ... those certain segments are generally the darker-hued members ... .

Ms. Ruth had a different take on the life scene altogether ... her message was simply in the living. A revolutionary act for certain ... to go about your life a happy heart ... and what seemed to me, to have the ability to balance the bitter with sweet ...

Ms. Ruth was among a long line of firsts to come, and seemed quite surprised at the "ruckus" her life story has stirred. She addressed the issues we lesbians are afraid to discuss ... like perhaps we can still be sensual, sexual, and loving beings as we age, and certainly as long as we can develop and maintain good health practices. Her life could well be a template for the kind of activism that will need to take place. Around issues of aging, parenting, caregiving/caretaking. To remain active in one's community, to reach out and forge new friendships, learn new things, and develop new interests ... particularly, to build relationships with seniors/the elderly. *The Ruth Ellis Story* is an absolute must for all of us to see. Her's is a life full of joy and accomplishment, flavored by satisfaction, as it should be lived.

Both women grasp the importance of building relationships across artificial obstacles that go in the guise of sexism, domestic violence, racism. Angela Davis called it building unlikely coalitions; urging the crowd to consider those folk who are incarcerated to be included in these dialogues.

By way of confession, I had to let a young brother pass myself and a companion as we walked to the lecture. It makes me nervous to have someone walk so closely behind me at night ... I apologized to him afterward, but he said he understood ... and by the same token, I couldn't stand this mangy guy trying to encroach on the space I was occupying with my friends. We had set up small chairs and had a bottle of water, and this guy kept inching forward. When it seemed his crotch was too close to my buddie's head ... I stuck my foot out to effectively mark where we were sitting, and had to mention to him that he was just too close, and to please step back. I would hope that others like him would keep that attitude of entitlement to themselves. I don't care how much you idolize her.

I likely will need a series of articles to address the myriad of issues that have been named. Or, so it seems from where I sit, on the Black hand side.

Friday, Oct. 8, there is a screening of Chicagoan Yvonne Welbon's film about Ruth Ellis, hosted by Women in the Director's Chair. The screening is followed by a panel of African-American lesbians on being "in the life" in Chicago from the 1930s to 1990s. The Oct. 8 event is 8 p.m., 941 W. Lawrence. The panel will be moderated by Welbon, and includes Stephanie Coleman, Vernita Gray, Donna Rose, Chris Smith and Donna Johnson, among others. Call (773) 773-907-0610 or widc@widc.org.

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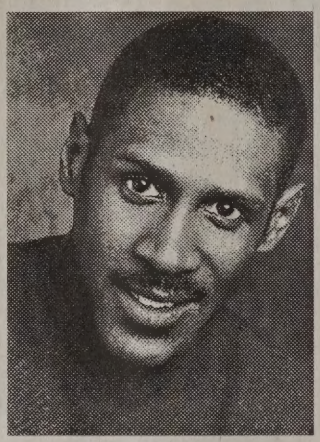
Dave Adams Interview

by Robert Schultz

David Adams was working out at a Bally's Health Club when he overheard conversation that the South Side-based ETA Creative Arts Foundation was opening its 29th season with Ed Bullins' *In the Wine Time*. David Adams, who plays Bama in the production (runs through Oct. 31, 773-752-3955), calls his participation a "chance of a lifetime." *In the Wine Time* premiered nearly 30 years ago and is one of the earlier of the more than 100 plays that the five-time Obie Award winner Ed Bullins has penned. Adams' Chicago debut in Bullins' play is a dream come true for this two-career gay man. David is an accountant and an actor. Harlem-born Adams grew up in Brooklyn during the era when Bullins would have four plays in production around New York. Bullins began writing plays in the mid 1960s to reach the Black masses on the theory that plays were more accessible than other types of literature.

Adams' Caribbean immigrant parents (his mother is from St. Croix and his father is from Cuba) told David that they sent him to school to be a professional and acting wasn't that type of work. David, who says he is looking at his 30s in a rear-view mirror, admits that such a mindset still influences him. It was a high school internship with Joseph Papp's Shakespeare in the Park in New York's Central Park that taught him that theater was more than getting a couple of actors together with a script and putting on a show. The festival's producer instilled in Adams the ethic that theater is a business where a work ethic allows one to succeed. In theater, Adams says, a work ethic means taking classes for skill development, showing up to the theater on time—"No one likes waiting on actors, especially other actors," and being courteous. Adams said such attitudes are important in an ensemble piece like *In the Wine Time*.

David Adams describes Bullins' show as being about a loss of innocence. Although the setting is a northern industrial town in the 1950s, the play has a contemporary ring enhanced by Bullins' style of everyday common characters who are "slice of life." Contemporary themes such as domestic abuse and co-dependency are examined in the events of one night where the characters are faced with a crisis



David Adams

that changes their destructive thinking. At points, as eight people are on stage.

David plays Bama, a southern guy, a good ol' country boy who is caught up with the drinking wine hang-out crowd. David says, "Out of all the male characters, Bama is the only one that doesn't cuss. He is even-tempered." David goes on to explain that Bama is, "Just as pathetic as the other characters but not as grotesque or abusive as the other guys in the show." All the characters are vital to the story and Bama is easily swayed by them. David remarked, "I knew who this character is, finding him in me was the challenge. I knew how I wanted him to look."

To prepare for the role of Bama, Adams credits the director Charles Michael Moore for giving the cast samples of the music of the time, reminding them who was president, even providing instruction in some of the popular dances of the 1950s. Reflecting on his job, David affirms, "I like bringing characters to life. I like to entertain. What I do is give it [characters] voice. I enjoy that a lot."

David plans to continue taking acting classes as he has in the past but now he's glad that he doesn't have to travel to the North Side to do so: ETA offers acting classes. David takes classes because, "No one actor knows everything. You always take classes to sharpen your craft. It's almost like a doctor. A doctor has to constantly take classes to stay on top of the game. Acting is the same thing. Acting is not an exact science like accounting. Accounting is an exact science: One and one will always equal two. Acting isn't like that, medicine isn't like that. It's a practice in its purest sense of the word." Employed full time as an accountant at a city agency over the last four years since he moved to Chicago, David has taken every opportunity to act or to study its craft except for a short period of time when he just concentrated on accounting. Acting is an activity where one can always jump in, he explained, and Chicago's scene is a little more sane than the 500 people per role auditions that are the norm in New York.

Among Adam's credits are appearances on the television shows *Early Edition*, *ER*, and *New York Undercover*.

Being an actor and an accountant isn't working at cross purposes, claimed David, who said he once tested evenly between being predominately right or left brained.

"My acting career is just another line of business. I'm the CEO, and CFO of David Adams, Inc. I handle everything like a business. I appreciate theater companies that handle the business side. No one who has made it has made it without being good businessmen. People like Wesley Snipes and Denzel Washington are businessmen before they are actors."

Adams wants everyone to know that the set designed for this production of *In the Wine Time* is worth the price of admission in itself and that any chance to see an Ed Bullins play is "worth it."

All Strayhorn concert set

by Robert Schultz

This is the centennial year of Duke Ellington's birth. In the middle of all the well-deserved hoopla celebrating the Duke, it's easy to forget that for 30 years Ellington's chief collaborator was the openly gay Billy Strayhorn. The Billy Strayhorn Orchestra, composed of 17 of Chicago's finest musicians led by pianist/arranger Gene Esposito, will provide a concert opportunity to be reminded of Strayhorn's contributions to the legacy at a concert at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 15, at the Gateway Theater, 5216 W. Lawrence, (773) 549-3405, www.jazzidiom.com

The Strayhorn Orchestra's concert will be recorded live that evening for a future album. Jazz critic and author, Neil Tesser, will emcee the program. The all-Strayhorn concert will feature vintage and newly discovered Strayhorn compositions. Hollywood film producer Irwin Winkler, who bought the rights to David Hadju's award-winning biography of Strayhorn, are both expected to be in attendance. Jazz Idiom Ltd. is sponsoring the all-Strayhorn show.

The enigmatic relationship between the older Ellington and younger Strayhorn was revisited by Strayhorn biographer Hadju in a VANITY FAIR article published in May 1999. Prompted by the discovery of a bare-chested photograph of Strayhorn in the Duke's personal artifacts given by Duke's son Mercer to the Smithsonian Institution, the photo was found in a prayer book that Ellington always kept with him until his death. Whether or not the two musical partners ever made music in a more physical manner will never be settled, and is, perhaps, irrelevant. Suffice it to say that in intimacy of the 30 years on the road and the musical collaboration between two kindred artistic souls I'm sure that they didn't limit themselves to just shaking hands. In the end, we are left to enjoy some great music.

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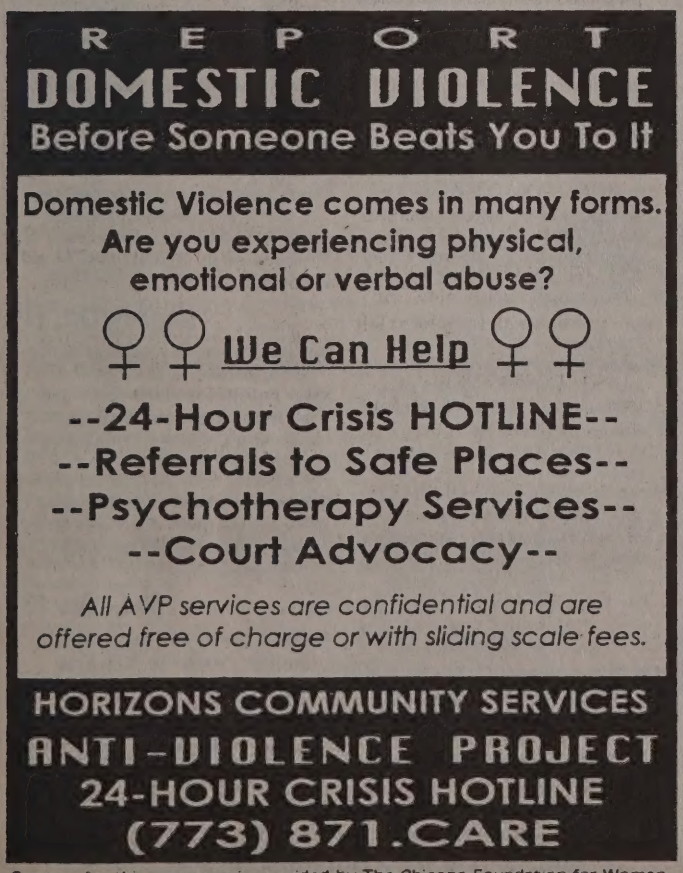
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CALENDAR

Wed., Sept. 29

African American Arts Alliance of Chicago 2nd annual Black Arts of Chicago thru Oct. 4, (773) 779-5201.

Dyke March 2000 Kick-off planning meeting to mobilize for inclusive march in 2000. Lesbian Avengers are turning over planning and leadership roles to broader women's community. 6:30 p.m., 59 E. Van Buren, 14th floor, (773) 761-0791.

Northeastern University Award-winning author Jamaica Kincaid, free talk, 7:30 p.m., (773) 583-4050.

Seminary Co-Op Books and Harold Washington Library Luis Rodriguez, *It Doesn't Have to Be This Way: A Barrio Story*, 57th Street Books, 1301 E. 57th, (773) 684-1300.

Thursday, Sept. 30

Chicago Theatre Trans star Lady Chablis attends the *Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil* concert, 7:30 p.m., State St., (312) 902-1500. With Margaret Whiting, Kevin Mahogany, and more.

Columbia College Fashion: An Evening with Kenneth Cole at Marshall Field's, 6-9 p.m., Cole hosts a private evening to celebrate the opening of his new shop, Field's, 111 N. State, (312) 663-1124, $250.

Voices of Cabrini: Remaking Chicago's Public Housing Documentary by lesbian filmmaker Ronit Bezalel on Cabrini housing changes, broadcast on WTTW-Channel 11, 11 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 1

Annual Brother-2-Brother Retreat "Living in the Spirit," through Oct. 3rd. $175. Malibu, Calif. (323) 964-7820.

Church of the Open Door As part of the Oct. 22 Coalition Against Police Brutality, a forum will be held 7 p.m., 5954 S. Albany. Discussion of police abuse as it relates to lesbian, gay, bi and trans people now and in the past. Speakers from October 22 group and Chicago Anti-Bashing Network. Call (773) 252-6019, (773) 528-1701.

Gerber/Hart Library Queer youth festival Oct. 1-3, free, 8 p.m., 1127 W. Granville, (773) 381-8030. *Boy Scenes* screened: *Alkai, Iowa, A Friend of Dorothy, The Disco Years* and *Absolution of Athony.*

Women & Children First presents Barrie Jean Borich, *My Lesbian Husband* at 7:30pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299. Chicago native Borich tells of the author's long-term relationship. She tells of discovering, through 12 years of devotion to the same sturdy woman, how much she delights in fidelity.

Saturday, Oct. 2

Adodi Chicago Meeting 2 p.m., M.O.I.P., 1346 S. Michigan, (312) 458-9584.

Aware Talk Radio Restoring Your Immune System, Oct. 2-3, on various radio stations, call (312) 541-TALK, 1-800-AID-AIDS.

City of Chicago Neighborhood Tours West Side, African-American and Italian American, (312) 742-1190.

Gerber/Hart Library Queer youth festival Oct. 1-3, free, 8 p.m., 1127 W. Granville, (773) 381-8030. *Girl Scenes* screened. Films by Catherine Crouch, Julia Zay, Irene Gustafson, Sadie Bening. 10 p.m.: Our Scenes: *Opening Closet X, Queercore, Surviving Friendly Fire.*

Illinois Federation for Human Rights "Statement for Freedom VI" annual benefit showcasing IL's best gay & lesbian performers at the Park West Theater. 6-10pm (773) 477-7173. MCs Byron Stewart and Jessica Halem. Performers Being Beautiful, Big Smith, Circuit Mom, Cerqua/Rivera Art, Kenned and Carl, Sapna Kumar, Patty Elvis Band, Refus Proffit & Pulsation. Park West, (773) 477-7173.

Ad Hoc Committee for A Show of Support Rev. Greg Dell, suspended from the United Methodist Church for blessing gay unions, speaks on "Resisting Racism and Homophobia," at reception and dinner spons. by Ad Hoc Committee for A Show of Support. Proceeds benefit Men of All Colors Together/Chicago and In All Things Charity.6 p.m., Ann Sather's, 929 W. Belmont, $5 reception only, dinner $45 with open bar, entertainment, dancing. (773) 549-7066.

Sunday, Oct. 3

Gerber/Hart Library Queer youth festival Oct. 1-3, free, 2 p.m., 1127 W. Granville, (773) 381-8030. *School Scenes, co-spon. by GLSEN, Conversation Piece, My Very Own, Afterschool Special, School Fag, Lessons in Baby Dyke Theory, Trevor.*

Women & Children First presents Katherine V. Forrest, *Sleeping Bones: A Kate Delafield Mystery* at 5pm. 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Monday, Oct. 4

Chicago Gender Society Miss CGS Pageant, Baton Show , 8 p.m., special performers Gabrielle Giovante, Angelique Munro, Whitney Gaton. $10 at the door.

Cocktail Outlines & LesBiGay Radio host Melissa Etheridge CD release party 8-11pm. Win copies of new CD "Breakdown", posters, singles and special surprises. See video "Angels Would Fall".

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce hosts "Why Pay Attention to My Books & the Bottom Line", Guest speaker Ann Christopherson of Women & Children First Held at 8 a.m., Ann Sather, 929 W. Belmont, includes sit-down breakfast. RSVP (773) 871-4190

Chicago International Film Fest 35th annual, films from round the world, thru Oct. 21, (312) 902-1500, (312) 425-9400, x 126.

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Horizons Community Services Real Chat Room series on lesbigay issues. "Hard Bodies & Plastic Pecs: What's an Average Guy to Do?." Men only 961 W. Montana, RSVP (773) 929-4357, 6-10 p.m.

Seminary Co-Op Books and Harold Washington Library renowned Black feminist intellectual bell hooks discusses her new book for children, *Happy to Be Nappy*, 6 p.m., 400 S. State. (773) 684-1300.

Thursday, Oct. 7

Affinity Healthy Woman Nite, "Addictions and Substance Abuse within the Lesbigay Community," with Dr. Hughes and Alicia Matthews PhD, 7 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, (773) 324-0377, affinity95@aol.com

Crossroads Fund Dancin' With the Grass, annual gala benefit, Hot House, 31 E. Balbo, Ron Sable Awards, to Esther Nieves, Affinity and Pintig Cultural Group. Big Smith and Funk Adesi (773) 227-7676.

Gerber/Hart Library 4-week discussion based on *Religion is a Queer Thing: A Guide to the Christian Faith for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons* (ed. by Elizabeth Stuart). Led by Rev. Kelly Sprinkle, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, and Rev. Jacki Belile, pastor of Phoenix Community Church in Kalamazoo. Oct. 7-28, 7 p, 1127 Granville, (773) 381-8030.

Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Assn. and Prism Steering Committee, announce re-opening o Prism Youth Program, a non-therapeutic program for 14-17 year old GLBT/questioning youth. Grand opening 6:30 p.m., 1145 Westgate, Suite 106, Oak Park, (708) FUN-FIND.

Friday, Oct. 8

5th Women Writers Conference featuring Ana Castillo & lesbian writer Dorothy Allison at Roosevelt University, 7 p.m., 430 S. Michigan (773) 296-1108 ext. 18. Also Oct. 9. Ana and Dorothy read together for the first time, Friday, $10, Fine Arts, 410 S. Michigan. Saturday conference is at Roosevelt, 430 S. Michigan. Sunday is at Roosevelt. Sponsored by Guild Complex.

Chicago Anti-Bashing Network March & Rally on one-year anniversary of Matthew Shepard murder to protest anti-gay hate at 8pm on corner of Halsted & Roscoe streets. More info call (773) 878-4781. Speakers include Dorothy Hajdys (mother of slain sailor Allan Schindler), and recent bashing victim Ryan Idol. Huge rally to remember Shepard, Billy Gaither, more.

Onyx Men's leather club hosts 4th anniversary weekend of events for Blackout 1999, Oct. 8-10. Friday opening at Cellblock. Saturday during the day and night at Cellblock. Sunday is banquet 3-6 p.m., Star Gaze, 5419 N. Clark. The Sunday night dance is at Numbers, 6408 N. Clark, 9 p.m. til closing: DJ Freddie Bain, guests dancers including Marcus. www.onyxmen.com, portion benefits ONYXCares. (312) 329-6141.

Women in the Director's Chair Special screening, *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100*, plus a panel of African-American lesbians on being "in the life" in Chicago from 1930s to 1990s. Lesbian filmmaker Yvonne Welbon will participate, 7 p.m., $10, 941 W. Lawrence. (773) 907-0610. Panel: Welbon, Stephanie Coleman, Vernita Gray, Donna Rose, Chris Smith and Donna Johnson, among others. Ruth Ellis is a 100-year-old Black lesbian, originally from Illinois, now living in Detroit.

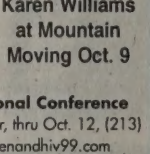
Saturday, Oct. 9

5th Women Writers Conference featuring Ana Castillo & lesbian writer Dorothy Allison at Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan (773) 296-1108 ext. 18. Today: 10:30 a.m., lecture by Dorothy Allison, with Q&A. 1:15 p.m., interview with Castillo, Q&A to follow. 3 p.m. Workshop on women's bodies, with Sharon Powell. 3 p.m., writing and publishing in the information age (moderator Karen Lee osborne). 3 p.m., panel discussion on writing inside and outside identity (with panelists Jorjet Harper, Effie Mihopoulos, Brenda Cardenas, Duriel Harris, Emily Hooper Lansana). By The Guild Complex.

¡Ambiente Pa'lante! presents Hispanic Heritage/Queer History Month celebration. Humboldt Park Library, 1605 N. Troy (Near North & Kedzie), 1:30-4:30 p.m. Panel on history of organizing queer Latinos/as in Chicago. Reps from groups and individuals. FREE. (773) 278-8563.

Aware Talk Radio Top Tips to Fighting the Flu, Oct. 9-10, (312) 541-TALK.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse Ha-HA Institute Comedy Theatre presents Karen Williams performing poetic comedy, *Essentially ... One Woman's Performance*, 7:30pm, 1650 W. Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (312) 409-0276.



Karen Williams at Mountain Moving Oct. 9

The Rails "SALVATION," at Mint, 10 p, 820 W. Lake, (312) 492-6468, release party for Whazzup magazine, record release and live performance by The Jasper Street Company, DJ Spen and Karizma, performance by Kive Ire. Also (708) 802-1705.

Women & HIV National Conference L.A. Convention Center, thru Oct. 12, (213) 486-6560, www.womenandhiv99.com

Sunday, Oct. 10

Girlbar Gay and lesbian "Steppers" set featuring "old school/dusties," and "new school" music, by Jennifer and Olia Entertainment, 7:30-11 p.m.; $3, 2625 N. Halsted, (773) 463-0313.

Onyx Leather men party, at Numbers, 6406 N. Clark, 9 p.m., patio and pit open all night, DJ Freddie Bain, guest dancers including Marcus. (312) 329-6141. Portion benefits OnyxCares.

Monday, Oct. 11

Horizons Community Services Annual meeting, elections, (773) 472-6469.

Sister Jeannine Gramick Special guest speaker, prohibited in July from performing pastoral work with lesbian and gay people, to speak at DePaul University, 7 p.m., 2320 N. Kenmore, room 154, (312) 362-5896.

Steppenwolf Theatre TRAFFIC series T Bone Burnett and Sam Phillips open 4th season of this series, 7:30 p.m., 1650 N. Halsted, (312) 335-1650.

Wed., Oct. 13

Horizons Community Services Real Chat Room "Mixing It Up: Is Life Richer with More Diverse Friendships?." 961 W. Montana, RSVP (773) 929-4357, 6-10 p.m. Program 2 hours.

Oak Park Public Library Lesbian historian Marie Kuda does a program on "Chicago's Gay and Lesbian History: From

more detailed calendar listings in Nightlines, and online www.outlineschicago.com

the Fire to the Flood," for GLBT History Month, 834 W. Lake St., Veteran's Room, 7 p.m., in Oak Park.

Thursday, Oct. 14

Affinity and Adodi "Brothers Meet Sisters," Lez Chat, for men and women, 7-9 p, 5650 S. Woodlawn, (773) 324-0377.

Center for Gender Studios U. of Chicago International conference on "Politics, Rights & Representation," achieving equality across the lines of gender, race and sexuality in the U.S., France, and South Africa. (773) 702-9936. Judd Hall, 4835 S. Kimbark. Free. Oct. 14, 7 p.m.: Assessing the Categories: Should Political Representation be Organized by Race, Gender or Sexuality, MANY more programs, call for info.

Friday, Oct. 15

Jazz Idiom Bill Strayhorn Orchestra All-Strayhorn program, vintage and newly discovered music by this great gay composer, 8 p.m., Gateway Th., 5216 W. Lawrence. Strayhorn was Duke Ellington's chief arranger and collaborator fore nearly 30 years. (773) 777-3796.

Whole Life Expo & Conference 100 speakers, Deepak Chopra, Marianne Williamson, Wayne Dyer, Barbara de Angelis, Stuart Wilde, Dannion Brinkley; 200 exhibits, alternative therapies and products, Oct. 16-17 at the Rosemont Convention Center. Call (800) 551-3976.

Saturday, Oct. 16

Affinity 40 Plus "I'm not your Sister, I'm your Lover," 4 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, (773) 324-0377

Aware Talk Radio A Woman's Guide to Preventing Breast Cancer, Oct. 16-17, (312) 541-TALK.

GLSEN Youth summit (773) 769-9009

Gerber/Hart Library and Test Positive Aware Network Big Al's Speakeasy benefit, at Knickerbocker Hotel Crystal Ballroom, with a 1920s style gambling theme casino benefit. 8-midnite, 163 E. Walton, $65-$500. Gamblers receive a dinner buffet, dancing to big band music, entertainment, cash bar, $75 in chips, and more. Call (773) 583-1059.

Howard Brown Health Center 25th Anniversary Dinner & Silent Auction, (773) 388-8997.

Tuesday, Oct. 19

South Suburban Sisters meeting in Orland Park, 3-5 p.m., (708) 460-8025.

Wednesday, Oct. 20

Lambda Legal Defense Bon Foster Civil Rights Lecture at the Palmer House Hilton. Billie Jean King as keynote speaker. VIP 11 a.m., luncheon noon. call (312) 663-4413.

Oak Park Public Library Lesbian historian Marie Kuda does a program on "Lesbians in Literature," for GLBT History Month, 834 W. Lake St., Veteran's Room, 7 p.m., in Oak Park.

Thursday, Oct. 21

Gwendolyn Brooks 9th Annual Writers Conference: Black Writers Approaching the Millennium Black Literature and Creative Writing thru Oct. 23 w/keynote speaker Dr. Maya Angelou at Chicago State University. For more info call (773) 995-4440

Friday, Oct. 22

Coalition of Black Investors Final part of 1999 Road to Prosperity Tour Oct. 22-23; 1-888-411-2624.

Howard Brown Health Center Counseling & Psychotherapy prof seminar: "Approaching the Millennium: Rethinking the Impact of HIV/AIDS," 2-4p, $20 ($10st) @ 4025 N Sheridan. Jon (773) 388-8904.

Saturday, Oct. 23

Aware Talk Radio The African-American Community & AIDS: The Crisis Within, Oct. 23-24, Oct. 30-31, (312) 541-TALK.

Sunday, Oct. 24

St. Luke's Place Ellen Meyers receives the Good Samaritan Award. 6 p.m., Martinique Banquet, 2500 W. 95th St., Evergreen Park. A project of United Methodist Church, this group provides housing of African-American people with AIDS on the South Side. (773) 928-2036.

Tuesday, Oct. 26

City of Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame 1999 Award Presentation 5:30pm Chicago Cultural Center, Randolph & Michigan (312) 744-7911. www.GLHallofFame.org

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THEATRE

Previews/Opening Nights

**** *Sept 29:* **Visiting Mr. Green**, by gay playwright Jeff Baron. Aging secluded Jewish widower is hit by a car. Reckless driver, a young executive, is sentenced to six months of weekly visits with Mr. Green. Thru Oct 31. Northlight 847 679-9501

Oct 8: **Career Achievement Award presentation to actor Morgan Freeman,** during 35th Chicago International Film Festival at a reception in his honor at The Black Or chid classic night club, 230 W North. Tix: Film Fest 312 782-9768 or Carson Pirie Scott, Dominick's, Tower, Hot Tix or Tktmstr

Oct 10: **Jane: Abortion and the Underground** Benefit performance features founder Heather Booth, now a respected labor organizer, members who were arrested in the 1973 raid on the service and the only black member, Marie Leaner, now a community orga izer, a former client. **Jane** was the underground abortion service run by Hyde Park women from 1969 to 1973. Chopin Th, 1543 W Division thru Oct 12. 773 334-6032

**** *Oct 22:* **Big Dicks on Stage In** Steven Dawson;s new comedy, Daniel is a playwright with a message. He wants to write serious drama about middle aged gay men, who have deep feelings and desires. But to get produced, he is asked by director and producer to make changes which they know the gay community will support. Bailiwick 773 883-1090

Oct 22: **Driving Miss Daisy** Alfred Uhry's Pulitzer Prize winning story of a black chauffeur, southern white lady who become close friends as they age, thru Nov 21. Village Players Theatre 708 222-0369

Oct 22: **Stomp** thru Oct 24 Paramount Arts Center 630 896-6666

Oct 29: **Smokey Joe's Cafe** works of legendary song-writing duo Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller ("Hound Dog," "Love Potion #9", "Yakety Yak" and "Jailhouse Rock") 8pm Paramount Arts Cntr 630 896-6666

In Performance

**** **Dancer from the Dance** written and directed by Eric Rosen, based on acclaimed gay novel by Andrew Holleran. About Face Th, Jane Addams Ctr Hull House 3212 N Broadway 773 549-7943

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf A woman's view of women of her race facing everything from rape to unrequited love with more courage than sorrow. Chicago Cultural Ctr thru Oct 24. 312 494-5720

In the Wine Time One night is a lifetime for a group faced with a crisis which changes their destructive thinking. Deals with black urban scene, black male and his triumphs and struggles in urban America. ETA Creative Arts foundation, ETA Sq, 7558 S. South Chicago Ave. Thru Oct 31. 773 752-3955

The Journal of Ordinary Thought Neighborhood residents gather to relate/perform their personal stories, a compilation of reflections people make on personal experience, a moving social commentary about many of America's poor communities. Result of writing workshops sponsored by Neighborhood Writing Alliance held in public housing projects, libraries, schools, community centers. Thru Oct 24 Chicago Th Co, Parkway Playhouse, 500 E. 67th St. 773 493-5360

Mahalia, The Life Story of Mahalia Jackson includes 18 songs made famous by the Queen of Gospel. Stars Latonya Beacham, a visual replica with a great voice. Black Ensemble Th, 4520 N Beacon. Thru Oct 24. 773 769-4451

**** **Raised in Captivity** by Nicky Silver. A gay writer in his 30s, emotionally empty since the death of his lover, develops a relationship with a murderer on Death Row. Cobalt Ensemble Th,thru Oct. 24, Chicago Dramatists 312 458-9182

The State of Mississippi vs. Emmett Till True story of a 14 year old African-American from Chicago, discovered floating in a Mississippi river in 1955, beaten, mutilated, the victim of a hate crime because he supposedly directed a wolf whistle at a white woman. Pegasus Players, Truman College's O'Rourke Ctr., thru Oct 17, 773 878-9761

DANCE

Oct 7: **Jump Rhythm Jazz Project** jazz, Latin music and the blues, to include *Romance in Swingtime*, classic duet featuring artistic director Billy Siegenfeld and accompaniment by the Jump Rhythm Jazz Trio. Thru Oct 9 at the Dance Center Columbia College 773 989-3310

Oct 8: **Robin Lakes/Rough Dance** *I Dance the Body Eclectic* Northwestern U, Thru Oct 10. 1979 S. Campus Dr Evanston IL 847 491-7282

Oct 29: **9th DanceAfrica Chicago Festival** *Sankofa: Looking Back to go Forward* honors elders in all communities and encourages youth as we go into the next millennium. Internationally renowned artists: Les Ballet Africains; National Dance company of the Republic of Guinea, the Nile Ethiopian Ensemble and Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago with guest Norma Miller, the legendary Queen of Swing. Month long festival culminating in dynamic performances Oct 29-31. Auditorium (312) 663-1600

ART/PHOTO

African American Cultural Ctr Henry Jones *On the Edge*, 312 996-9549

Art Institute of Chicago *Terrain of Freedom: American Art and the Civil War* highlights John Quincy Adams Ward's sculpture *The Freedman*, with strong images of African American slaves and freedmen in Civil War-era society; and Albert Bierstadt's painting *Mountain Brook*. Call for lectures and performances, exhibit runs thru Nov. 28. Ward said of his own sculpture, considered to be the first realistic representation of an African American to have been cast in bronze, that the African American depicted was understood to be a fugitive slave who had broken his own shackles, left his plantation, and fled northward to seek freedom within the ranks of the Union Army. At the same time this sculpture was on exhibit, the federal government issued official orders calling for the enlistment of African Americans into the Union Army to fight as soldiers.

**** **Chicago Cultural Ctr** Fictional adventures of an African-American woman in Paris, living as an artist and model in the heyday of Picasso, Matisse, and Gertrude Stein are the subject of Faith Ringold's celebrated series of story quilts, *Dancing at the Louvre: French Collection and Other Story Quilts*, thru Oct 10. *EMBODYdisembody* brings together seven photographic/installation artists whose works center on art, science, the body, thru Oct 3. *Cows on Parade* life size fiberglass bovines by hundreds of local artists, not in the Ctr but in public spaces, buildings, thru Oct 31. Chicago Cultural Ctr, 312 744-6630 or recording 312 346-3278

The Dusable Museum of African American History *Harold Washington In Office*, permanent exhibition, w/ composite office setting; memorabilia; personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th, Cottage Grove Ave, Washington Park. Call about *Dusable After Dark*, monthly networking affair with cultural appeal. Sundays are free. 773 947-0600

Peace Museum *Women's Peace Initiatives: Transforming Communities* historic links between women's equality movement and movements against wars, nuclear weapons, racial discrimination and inequality. Honoring organizations that transform local, national, global communities thru non-violent means. Highlights Rigoberta Menchu, Aung San Suu Kyi, Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, Gwendolyn Brooks and Chicagoan Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells plus less famous women whose work goes unmentioned in history books. Thru Nov 23. Peace Museum, 314 W Institute Place, 6:30pm. 312 440-1860

Ward's *The Freedman.*

**** **Vedanta Gallery** *Funtime Ken and Friends* gay New York artist Steve DeFrank explores his sexuality thru large illuminated portraits of America's alternative sweetheart, the vintage Ken doll, using about 30,000 disco painted Lite-Brite pegs, from the familiar child glowing sketchpad, in each portrait to create a luminous monarch of a boyhood closeted crush with painstaking obsessiveness. Includes Brad (Black Ken), and Funtime Ken, the cowboy. Thru Oct 23. 110 N Peoria, 312 432-0708

Woman Made Gallery Also *Chicago in Glass*, special preview of new art by Judy Chicago executed in glass by Vicki Deon, Oct 2 thru Oct 13. 312 328-0038 or preview at www.womanmade.org. Keith Mansion of Joy Darrow 1900 S Prairie 312 328-0038

Wood Street Gallery *Indoor/Outdoor* 2D/3/d new sculpture garden with work by Eric Nordgulen, John Van Alstine, and Zelda Werner (in memoriam). 1239 N. Wood St. 773 227-3306

NOTICES

ETA Creative Arts Foundation seeks playwrights who want their works produced by an outstanding African American theater thru a collaborative process, the Playwright Discovery/Development Initiative. Not a contest. Historically the African American community has hunGered for live, authentic, uplifting and entertain presentation of itself. But few writer have the institutional support they need and the ETA has existed since 71 for that reason. Send scripts by Oct 31, call 773 752-8727 for info

**** **Herotica 7** accepting woman-authored and focused, arousing and unpredictable erotica submissions. Multicultural focus: Has your cultural background affected your sex life? Have you been involved with someone of another race/culture? Issues, learning, solutions. Deadline Dec 15, typed, double-sp, w/ name, add and phone, SASE. to Down There Press ATT: HER, 938 Howard St. #101, San Francisco, CA 94103.

**** **Poetic Healings** Bi women and lesbian of color submit healing poetry mainly about abuse, bi-phobia, breast cancer, chemical dependency, HIV/AIDS, lesbian-phobia, racism and and sexism. A poetry health video and a self-help treasure are being compiled. Send a max 3 original and unpublished poems by Oct 1 deadline to Chinwe Odeluga, 1941 Gaston Place Drive #328, Austin, TX 78723 or chinweodeluga@hotmail.com. A Teatro Humanidad sponsored project.

**** **Grants for Lesbian, gay, bi and trans film and video makers** sought by Frameline for the 1999 Tzabaco/Frameline Film&Video completion Fund. Grants from $500 to $3,000 are available for projects in the final stages of production. Deadline Oct 15. 415 703-8660 or. www.frameline.org

**** **Very Queer Reruns: Boob Tube Fantasies** seeking submissions for a collection of erotic fiction inspired by TV shows ewe grew up viewing in our own queer way. All queer persuasions welcome. 20 page max. Chris Strickling/Mary Grover PO Box 222, Austin TX 78767-0222

Reva Thomas, a Ph.D. student at California School of Professional Psychology in Alameda CA writing Ph.D. dissertation on psycho-social development of African American women, in particular teen mothers, received AFDC, earned professional degrees and have professional careers. Contact Rreva@aol.com, or just pass this along. Theresa M. Tensuan, Dept of English, 302 Woodside Cottage, Haverford College, Haverford PA 19041, 610 896-1268

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Hail, Mary

by Marvin Patterson

You have only sensed this Mary. When she sings, a collection plate should be passed around; tithes seem due. Choruses sung by the Pentecostal daughter became anthems. She carries truth like a wand; respect like a shield. She seeks love, speaks prophecy. "Looking in the mirror nowadays is more than just looking at me. It's looking at the depths of me," she says. Herewith her most musical album; her most soulful reflection: *Mary, everlasting*. It hasn't always been this way. Certain things about **Mary Jane Blige** you just can't shake. *What's the 411* presented a shy, combat-booted, tough love Yonkers queen straight out of the Slow Bomb projects. *My Life's* Mary was forsaken, struggling with tensions between the sacred and the secular, breaking mountaintop truths over heads like golden calves. *Share My World* was an independent, brave step toward the day of reckoning. But let Mary tell it, her's isn't so much a struggle as a journey. "I was crying out for help during the *My Life* album," she confesses. "If you listen to the song 'Happy' I was like, Please somebody come save me. Even by the time *Share My World* came, I was still trying to find my way."

All the multi-platinum sales, accolades and awards in the world did matter. That was the problem; they were of the world. Life has been difficult these couple years, she'll tell you. But the point is not in her deep-set scars, it's in her healing. And Mary is getting stronger—rising—every day.

"This making of this album was unbelievable," Mary says. "All I saw was love; I don't normally see that. No problems, no nonsense in the studio. It was 'You coming right or you not comin in here!'" A sampling of those who made it through: Elton John, Lauryn Hill, Chuck Thompson, DMX, Aretha Franklin, Babyface, Eric Clapton, K-Ci Hailey, Nas. Mary co-wrote 90% of the album, which she approached for a 1970s, early 1980s feel.

Mary, the album, is about what's happening in her life now. "You know the feeling you get listening to Stevie Wonder's *Songs In the Key of Life?*" she asks. "That's the feeling I needed to hear from this album. And I definitely think we got it."

Mary

Mary is a fluid venture from its first single, "All That I Can Say," featuring Lauryn Hill's signature old-school, doo-wop production and simply pretty background vocals. It's a slow, lucid swing and one of Lauryn's best production efforts, *Miseducation* included. "That's what I love about Lauryn," says Mary. "I don't think any other artist would have done that for me. When she looks at me, it's not with eyes of envy." Rather, there's a respectful, female intimacy, evident throughout the airy, snaking song. The most chilling moment is when Mary and Lauryn get to the other side of the bridge (Lauryn is known for building a sturdy bridge) and out comes a convert wail: Mary's heaaaarrreee! Actually, much of *Mary* will make you tremble and rock. "Beautiful One" is a delicate, deeply rooted song that reunites Mary with Chucky Thompson who produced most of *My Life*. The track's phrasing is more profound than complex; the arrangement, angelic. It's also Mary Jane Blige's favorite song on the album. "Oh my God, I feel crazy on the inside when I hear it, like heaven was running through me. A message has been given to me," she says. "I just want to cry. I can picture my wedding through this song, but when I sing, 'You are my love, you are my diamond, you are my flower, you are my life, you are everything to me,' I'm saying that the beautiful one is you." Perhaps Mary's most intriguing track is "Not Lookin'" Originally the song was to be a duet with R&B artist Joe, then Eric from Blackstreet. But the only man who could stand up vocally to Mary was K-Ci Hailey, one of her greatest tests and teachers. They haven't dueted since *What's the 411's* "I Don't Want To Do Anything." As ever, Mary is honest about their six-year reunion. "When my manager suggested K-Ci, at first I was like, 'Hell No! None of that,'" she said, recalling their intense relationship and subsequent breakup. "But I thought about it and said, 'Know what? The boy can sing.'" "Don't Waste Your Time" features Mary with Aretha Franklin; a formidable pair. "That just takes courage in itself," Mary laughs, "walking in a studio with a woman who's been in our hearts and our homes and our lives forever? Since we can remember? There's nothing but love for her. There was a point where she said, 'You think you look like me?' I got real scared and said, 'No.' She said, 'I think you look like me.'" The gentle sentiment made Mary's mother cry. "I'm just really concerned about the hip-hop/R&B audience—the audience that made me," she continues. "All the people in the projects that get a welfare check every month and go buy (my) *Mary* album. I didn't put Eric Clapton, who is very soulful on his guitar, and Elton John, who was at one time a big part of Black music, on my album because I want to crossover. I put them on *Mary* because I like what they do." And there is no more holding herself back, no more fear. She is handling everything around her differently. Out with constructive criticism. "I don't give a damn what people think anymore. I'm not afraid. I got things in me that I learned when I was a little girl; now that I'm free, all of that is coming back. And I have so much more."

Moving on to other news: **Mr. Eric Benet** was the blind date who performed at the Miller Genuine Afterset, along with **The Roots** and **Busta Rhymes**. Benet, who did an outstanding performance, says he's blessed that his album has gone platinum. "(I) think this album, has given me the exposure to people who didn't know who I was." It has finally been confirmed that he and Halle Berry are an item. Asked if he foresees wedding bells, he responded, "Halle and I are enjoying each other's company," and it's for him to know, and his fans to find out

Beyoncé of the quartet group Destiny's Child said the group is very close and they hope this album is as successful as the first one. Maxwell, who recently took the Windy City by storm, says that he is very surprised at how many female fans he has. "In high school, I didn't date much, didn't have that many girl friends," he said. Maxwell went on to say that he's also surprised at how many compliments he receives from his male audience.

[In Sept., in Atlanta, 97.5 morning DJ Ryan Cameron reportedly outed Maxwell as gay. The DJ alleges that Maxwell announced this thru his publicist. Caller's reactions varied from extreme upset to praise. This came via the internet—take it for what it is, a rumor right now.]

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Hear Again

by Jano

How I feel is how I listen.

Today. I feel blah. I need to remember why I am here. I will go to the *medicine cabinet* to see if there is anything there to make me feel better. I will select the **Kenny Loggins** CD, *Unimaginable Life*. This starts off with a prayer, setting a new age tone but soon moves into grooves like, *Now That I Know Love*, worthy of stepping to. The lyrics on various songs will kidnap me from the pity party I am having and put me face to face with my own power.

Then I'll hear the **Yellow Jackets** CD, *Dreamland*. This will inspire me to get up and take action without interrupting my thoughts. It won't demand my attention by asking me to skip one tune for the next. The Bobby McFerrin vocal on the second track, "Summer Song," settles in and keeps me company. *Dreamland* is so smooth that it can repeat itself several times before I notice.

Now, I want some conversation. I'll cue up **Etta James**, *Life, Love, and the Blues*. Although I realize you sometimes must have an open mind when you listen to music out of your regular genre, this CD was almost returned to the store after I first listened to it. Now, every time I hear, "Born Under a Bad Sign" or the cover of the late Johnny 'Guitar' Watson's, "I Want To Ta Ta You," I grin from ear to ear. Her delivery of the blues make me feel like I'm eavesdropping on some juicy, small-town gossip.

I am beginning to feel better. **Earth, Wind and Fire's**, *That's The Way Of The World*, title track gets my attention and gives me hope. This music reaches into the memory of my youth and illuminates a future that is always possible. "Shining Star" is exciting, catchy and believable, *"You're a shining star no matter who you are ... "*

Since I'm feeling lighter now, I'll go for high drama with **Kathleen Battle** *Sings Mozart*. "Vorrei Spiegarvi, Oh Dio!" (don't worry, I can't pronounce it either), reminds me of funny-faced divas I've seen on public television dramatically rolling their eyes and snapping their words. I will sway to and fro, pretending I know all of the words to this sad love song. (The translation is included in the album notes.) It is the drama of it all that will lighten my heart and the beauty of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Andre Previn that will connect me with the longest rays of the sun.

Ah, I feel better now.

Underground Techniques

by DJ Harry T

Ralphi Rosario - *45 Miles of Nerves*

Chicago House music veteran and legend Ralphi Rosario released his long-awaited album, *45 Miles of Nerves* on UC Music/ Afterhours. This DJ, songwriter and producer whose remixes of artists (Gloria Estefan, Barrio Boyz and Deee-lite) have been blessed by his skillful hands, showcases those talents and local artists as well.

From the opening track, *45 Miles* begins the journey for the road, with explorative drum and bass beats and trip-hop savy, all accompanied with the vocals of Byrd Bardot, Vaughan Palelei and Collette Marino. Although the album does include the No. 1 Billboard smash, "Take Me Up (Gotta Get Up)," featuring the vocals of Donna Blakely, it does include new tracks including " Mello ... But Yet Tawnting," "I Want Everything Back!," and "Don't Throw Our Love Away," featuring Kellee Warren. (Where you been hiding, gal?)

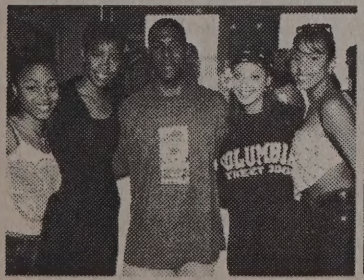
My favorites have been his collaboration with the legendary Linda Clifford on "Wanna Give It Up," a remake of The Ritchie Family classic, "Give Me A Break," and "Salsation," featuring a dynamic performance by his brother, Issac Rosario on saxaphone. Being a DJ myself, Ralphi has been an inspiration to me as an artist, a friend and his innovative mixing skills. For those who had doubt about this man, check your ego at the door. There's room for everyone in this business. Like a bridge, if you build it, people will come. Ralphi, thank you for allowing us to experience your *45 Miles* and keep the road open for those who want to travel right with you.

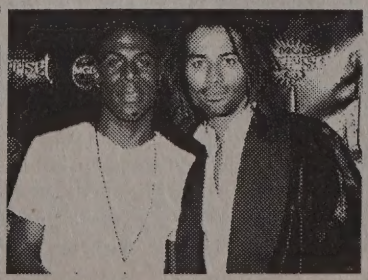
Celeda - *This Is It*

Having burst onto the scene with her singles, "Get It Together" and "Messin' With My Mind" along with the Heavy Hitters, Celeda has been busy crafting her work and now the wait is over. *This Is It* (Twisted), the full-length album, explores many different musical styles collaborating with many different producers such as Cevin Fisher and Maurice Joshua. Beginning with the opening track, "Burnin' Up," Celeda sets the stage for a musical journey with great lyrical songwriting, focusing on positive messages which is sometimes overlooked with her gospel-influenced vocals.

Her sermon begins with words of encouragement, in which she focuses on self-empowerment. Listening to "Try Again" and "Happy," she spreads her message of self-love and self-respect, singing 'When you fall, sugar don't fall apart. There is no such word as can't.' With "Be Yourself," she sings with conviction on loving who you are and doing what pleases self and not to please someone else.

Of course, the club favorite, "Music is the Answer (Dancin' & Prancin')" is included, along with other great vibes. Celeda even lets her hair down with a funky drummer groove on "Beat Me Down." Overall, this is a great beginning for a Chicago diva gal.





Some pics to go with Marvin's column this month on music industry people. LEFT: Marvin with Destiny's Child. MIDDLE: Marvin with Eric Benet. RIGHT: Maxwell (front, center) with members of the Mod Squad on V-103 and Maxwell's v.p. of publicity Cynthia Johnson. Photos by Raymond Boyd and Jennifer Williams

The ONYX Blackout Anniversary Weekend 99

by Sherri Jackson

I was asked sometime ago to interview the president of Onyx/Chicago Leather Men's Organization. I thought this could be a learning experience and fun. I could admit some of my own prejudices, and dismantle some of the myths about the Black leather community. I also thought I probably would find out that my fetishes may not be any different than those of the Leather community. I just think they are possibly more open and more comfortable than a lot of us are willing to admit when it comes to sexuality.

I decided to meet with Steve Balious, who is the president of ONYX Leathermen. We had a nice lunch and talk. Steve has a warm smile and is very easy to speak with. I also noticed he is very comfortable with both his masculine and feminine sides. Now, I can respect that in a man. Steve told me about ONYX, The Blackout weekend Oct. 8-10, and the direction ONYX would like to see itself in the future. I wanted to know more about ONYX PEARLS, the Leather Women's group. Steve is also one of the five founding members of ONYX, a 50-member organization nationally. This Blackout Celebration will be their 4th anniversary celebration. Most of the ONYX members are very active in the community. They have a history with Minority Intervention Outreach Project and Brother to Brother C.A.N. — a support group for men of color out of Harambe Wellness Center in Hyde Park. ONYX also was a supporter of the first Chicago Black Gay Pride.

Sherri: Tell me about the Blackout Celebration Weekend?

Steve: It starts Friday, Oct 8. We have a Welcome Reception and Registration at the Cell Block 8-10 p.m. On Saturday we continue with a brunch, and a leather swap. Here you can buy tapes, leather goods, and magazines. This is a nice way to trade your items and shop as well. We also will have a dinner Saturday night. We also have an annual general meeting for our members from out of town.. It's a kind of State of the Union Address. Here we discuss what it is like to be in this life a minority within a minority. We are a triple threat because we are Black, gay, and kinky [he says with a chuckle and a big smile].

Sherri: What are the differences between the Black Leather community and the White Leather community?

Steve: They are obvious, in S&M people think that means Slave and Master. It means Sadomasochism. As Black people we have a strange history with that whole Slave and Master thing. The cultural differences require special needs. We have to identify that for ourselves. We are not interested in the traditional roles of Slave and Master. I do think that passions are the same. We just have to get rid of all the stigmas and stereotypes and destroy that.

Sherri: I noticed while in Atlanta recently and even here in Chicago I always seem to see men. Where are the Black Leather women and does ONYX have a group for women?

Steve: We are trying to support the Black Pearls, the women's group. We really want the women to do this for themselves. We are just supporters. We as men understand we have a responsibility to be a big brother to our sisters. We also know as men the women will remind us to be good sons [said with a smile]. We want to embrace those relationships within the women's community. We want to teach them, but they also teach us and we must nurture each other.

Sherri: How can I become involved with ONYX? Steve, I may not attend events with ONYX because I feel I will be looked at weird if I don't arrive in my leather wear, or maybe because I don't know enough about that lifestyle. I do like to see a woman in Leather, but then again I like a woman in mostly anything [laughter]. So does that make me a Leather girl?

Sherri: The easiest way to become involved is by checking out the Blackout Weekend Events. We also meet at the Cell Block the 3rd Sunday of every month. Sherri, you don't have to embrace any particular fetish. There are all kinds of fetishes out there and available. We do not recommend any one over the other. What we recommend is that you explore the fullness of your sexuality. I was told the ONYX Pearls members are introduced to each other, and then become involved with the group this way. They are not as visible as the men, but hopefully that will change in the future. They usually pair up and hang out after meeting each other.

Sherri: Is being into the Leather thing about S&M?

Steve: People are sometimes into leather for leather's sake. I like it for the masculinity of it. You feel good, attractive, and sexy. It's a cultural thing of being honest about my sexuality as a sexual being, and the rest of the world. Terms are used and negotiated during the play. The hard-core scene is called edge play where you take it to the limit. It needs to be a safe zone, with buzz words used. The buzz words Safe, Sane, and Consensual. You must take responsibility so no one gets hurt. [Steve's favorite word is 'home' because he identifies this as a safe place.]

Sherri: What direction would ONYX like to be heading in the future?

Steve: I would like to see ONYX continue what we have been doing, I am happy with that. I would like to see us be inclusive, a space to welcome others. I would like to see other minorities get involved with the leather community. I would like to see us embrace the fullness of our sexuality. This comes from our upbringing of sex and with each other in our relationships, how we even interact. I would like to see us continue to destroy the myths involved in S&M and the leather community. In the future we are hoping to have chapters in other states maybe. We will not start another ONYX, but we would like to see chapters elsewhere. We are also going to work more on cultural differences. In the Black community there are so many myths we need to overcome still so we can be comfortable who we are. As Black people we are beautiful, sexual beings. We should not be afraid to embrace this about ourselves. Sometimes we want to do everything behind closed doors with the lights out. We should have no shame about who we are and what we like. We need to embrace our sexual side the same way we embrace the rest of ourselves in PRIDE.

Sherri: I thank you for the time out of your busy schedule. Is there a way I or the public can contact ONYX or find out more about the Blackout Weekend?

Steve: You can visit our website at www.onyxmen.com, or write us at Onyx, 1340 W. Irving Park Road, Suite 188. Chicago, Ill.

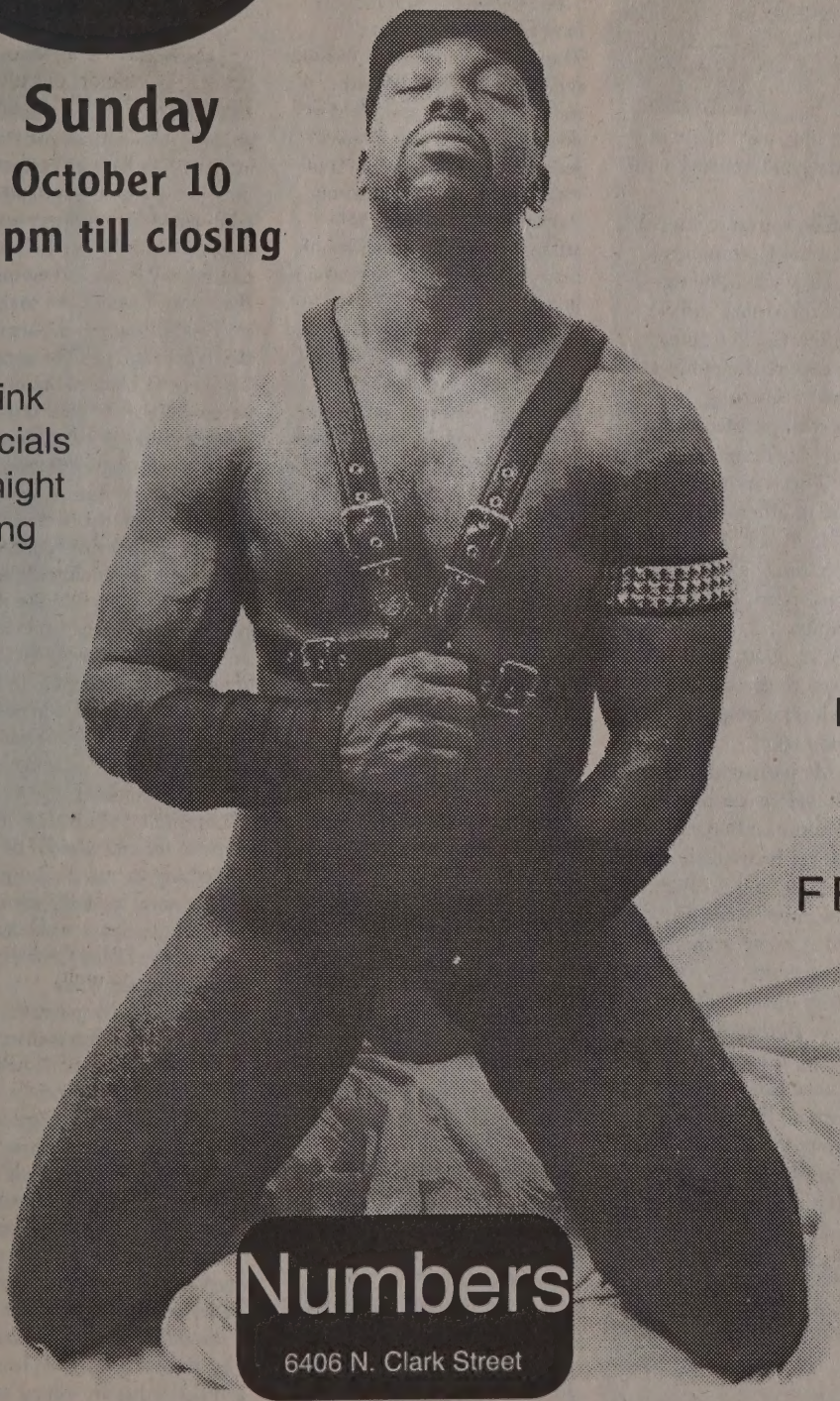
A portion of the proceeds from the Blackout Weekend supports various people of color, the leather community, and certain HIV/AIDS related charities.

Steve said, "Leather people do not have sex any more than the rest of the community. I just thought you might want to know this, Sherri."

I found the interview with Steve to be informative and fun, just like I expected. I even told Steve I might go to the big dinner they have on Saturday evening. Most of all I learned that in addition to the fact that these men and women are open about their sexuality, they are also giving back to their community in a good way. I hope you all check out Blackout Weekend, or attend an ONYX meeting, and get to know the brothers and sisters in the community. You know that as a community we sometimes do not like to talk about or associate with the LEATHER Community.

ONYX

BLACKOUT IV



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Leather Scene

by Cain Berlinger

This is a first in the series of interviews with the men and women of color who have done their share to promote the diversity and inclusiveness of the leather community. This month brings you my interview with 1996 International Ms. Leather, Genelle Moore, the sister of International Mr. leather 1984, Ron Moore.

Cain Berlinger: How did it feel to win the IMsl title?

Genelle Moore: At first I was totally shocked, amazed, and totally numb. I went through a stage where I sat back and thought to myself "wow I won." I realized what an important role I was playing in the history of Leatherdom. It's a great feeling

I wanted to connect with as many people as possible in one year, to educate people about the leather community and its various factions. The bottom line is that we are a group of articulate, creative and intelligent individuals.

CB: Some of the advice given to you was not to take 'it' (the title) to seriously. What do they mean by that?

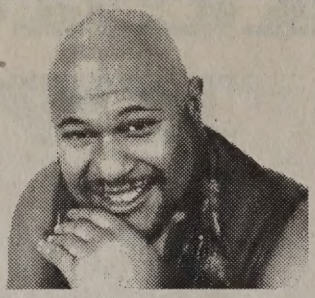
GM: ... not to get wrapped up in other people's agendas and politics; and the politics of the sash. I had a job to complete but I didn't want to lose sight of having fun and connecting with people.

CB: What gave you the courage to try for IMsL?

GM: It was the support of my community, family and friends that gave me the confidence to step forward. I was raised to do the best that I can and to reach for the stars. I never even thought twice that I shouldn't run, once I made the decision to seek the title.

CB: What advice would you give to women wanting be a part of the women's Leather community?

GM: Get involved. Join a



club, a group, participate in local events and network with others

CB: Who were/are your role models in the Community?

GM: They would be my brother Ron Moore and (author) Dr. Gayle Rubin, because they're the pioneers, who were very strong, brave and powerful people, who were constantly breaking new ground. These are traits I greatly admire in others, and hope to emulate in myself. I have many other role models who share these traits outside of the Community.

CB: A lot of attention has been given to the spouses of title holders coining the phrase "sash widow/er"

GM: My partner, Kathy's role as a sash widow was one of support, at home and on the road. She kept me focused and energized, helping me to laugh when I wanted to cry. She attended as many events as possible with me.

CB: Any final thoughts?

GM: To all that attended IMsL 1997: it meant a great deal to have had your support. Try to attend future IMsLs. I was honored to be the IMsL for 1997 and hope I can get to know as many of you as possible in the future.

writercain@aol.com

Thy Cup Runneth Over

Murder

by Lynnell Stephani Long

For the past several months I have read articles about Transexual women being bashed, raped or murdered. Whether it's in Chicago or somewhere else doesn't matter. What matters is it seems it's open season on Transexuals. The recent murder of Barretta Williams and the attempted murder of her roommate Pebbles, for some reason hit home.

Maybe it's because it happened on the South Side of Chicago, where I grew up. Maybe it's because Barretta picked these guys up at [a club] where I used to visit every weekend, or maybe it's because I just got tired of ignoring that Black Transexual women are being murdered more often and no one is saying anything.

Maybe it's because when Matthew Shephard was killed people talked about it for months, and continue to talk about it today. But we all know the truth. The truth is Transexuals are dispensable. If a Transexual gets murdered people think, "She must have been deceiving men, and one of them got fed up."

I think Barretta and others like her were killed and it went unreported, or mentioned briefly, because people still allow themselves to be ignorant to Trans issues.

I get envious when I see how the gay and lesbian community stands up against the uprise of gay bashing. After a Transexual woman is killed I wait for someone to have a candlelight vigil or an anti-bashing demonstration. But nothing. Nothing!

At a recent It's Time, Illinois meeting, Lorrainne Sade came out to ask for donations to help the only survivor of the viscous attack, Pebbles. I use her nickname Pebbles because the police fear the murderers might come back to finish the job. When it was mentioned at ITI that a Black Transgendered person is bashed every weekend, they were

stunned. Of course those statistics are based on hearsay because most Trans bashings go unreported. I would like to direct my anger toward the gay & lesbian community because they support their own. I would like to direct my dismay towards the activists that work hard to fight to end the bashings on Halsted Street because Halsted Street travels all the way to the South Side and no one is there protecting my sista's from bashings. But the truth is I'm angry with the Trans Community for not coming together and standing against this hatred. I'm angry because most people in the Trans Community are too busy shaking their ass on stage, trying to blend in to society, partying or just don't give a damn. Those of us who care enough to say or do something are few in numbers.

Lorrainne Sade Baskerville came to me and asked if there is something we can do. I wanted to tell her sure, we could march down Halsted, we could demonstrate at the Daley Center or we can support the Black Transgendered organizations in Chicago. The truth is marching down Boys Town won't help. Demonstrating downtown won't mean a thing to the people too busy trying to get to work. What we need to do, what needs to happen is the Black community needs to be educated on the Trans Community. Those that don't oppress us can support us. If we were to demonstrate or march it should be in our own community, since it is our own brotha's and sista's that are killing us; Physically and mentally.

I found it difficult to get caught up with the drama at Michigan Womyn's Festival, when my sista's are being murdered or left for

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Tommy Ross is the new miss Continental, crowned Labor Day Weekend in the annual Miss Continental Contest. Photos by Israel Wright

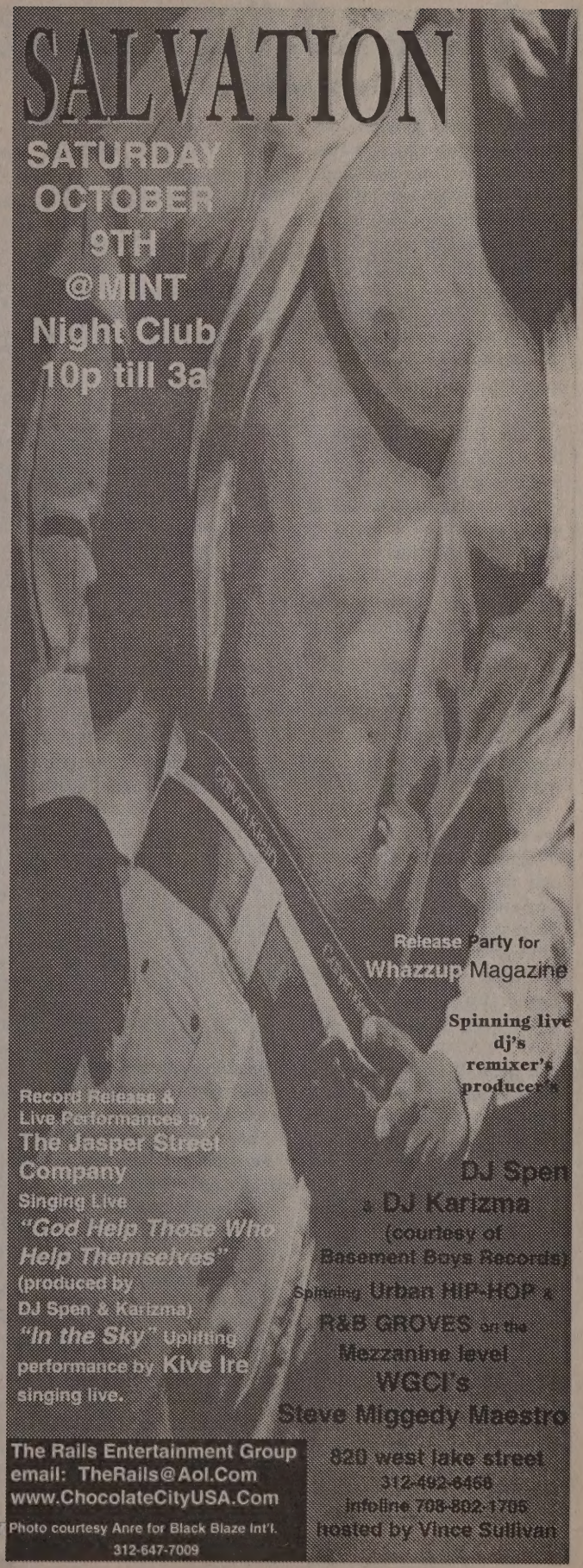
LYNNELL from 22

dead. Did you know when Barrettta Williams and her roommate Pebbles were shot, the only reason Pebbles survived is because she was smart enough to play dead? I don't have the time to write an article on women-born-women only spaces. I don't have time to fight separatists that keep oppressing my Trans sista's & brotha's. I do have time to say the Transgendered Community needs your help.

What can you do? You can be open-minded enough to learn to understand us. You can be willing to forget the stereotypes that plague our community. You can open the doors to your organizations and become Trans inclusive. You can treat us like we are human.

They say charity begins at home, but the Transgendered Community doesn't have a home. We don't have a North Halsted Street or a Girl Bar. We don't have the Belmont Rocks or Hollywood Beach. We don't even have rights to protect us. All we have is each other, and most are too busy to give a damn. It's scary to think that my sista's & brotha's are being murdered because we are different, and we all know it's easy to kill someone who's different from you. The men that shot those two Trans women didn't see their beauty. They didn't recognize their struggle. To them they were two men that dressed as women. To me they are two women that were learning to live as their true selves. The bastards that killed Barretta were gang members and for one of them it was their initiation to the gang to shoot those two sista's. I pray for us all because when they get tired of killing the trannies, they may start killing the faggots & dykes. Then will anyone take notice?

E-mail TSReporter@aol.com; www.members.aol.com/INTERSEXx



Pride Atlanta Style

by Sherri Jackson

Black Gay Pride, what does this really mean? Many of us have different meanings and reasons we celebrate. I'd like to think of Black Gay Pride as a 365-day event.

When I think of Black Gay Pride, I recall Angela Davis with her big fro. I imagine Bayard Rustin as he organized the March on Washington, or Ruth Ellis who I hope to be one day; graceful, loving, and a leader. But, one sure picture that sticks in my mind is the two brothers during the Olympics in Mexico City. I read the stories, and heard the talks of this event as a child. Two men standing proud accepting their medals, with fists raised high giving the Black power sign. This was not a militant stance, but a stance of hope, dreams, past and their future. The fist went up to show Black pride, togetherness, peace, unity, and most of all, freedom.

While in Atlanta Sept. 2-6, celebrating Black Gay Pride, I thought of our past, present, and our future as Black folks, Gay and Black. Atlanta's theme for this year was Return to Royalty: Reclaiming Our Heritage, celebrating the Black Les/Bi/Gay/Trans SGL Community. What a time to travel to Atlanta. The weather was great, the Brothers and Sisters looked beautiful as always, on my many visits to Georgia. The weekend was full of parties—Atlanta is known for throwing down some parties. But, this Black Gay Pride event was also about education, honor, and empowerment. Over the past four years, In The Life Atlanta has produced the "Official Black Gay Pride" events, recognized throughout the world. It was started in 1996 by activists, leaders, and community members who believed there was strength and power in the solidarity of the L/B/G/T/SGL community. ITLA was organized to facilitate the coming together of many organizations and people into a single entity that would provide a united front for addressing issues and conditions that impact the "GAY" community, specifically of color, and particularly of African descent.

The Black Gay Pride event was held at Renaissance Atlanta Hotel, as well as parties throughout the area. Crystal Liddal, assistant director of the event, said in the SOUTHERN VOICE: "The Royalty part is just a recognition that we are all individuals that have something to offer. We don't have to look at ourselves as common people. We are all kings and queens."

Black Gay Pride in Atlanta was full of activities. Sept. 2 started with a Candlelight Vigil in honor of those men and womyn who have struggles with cancer, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, and hate crimes. Sept 3 offered a welcome reception and a fashion show. Sept. 4 was my day to check out the workshops and of course the fine, lovely, ladies. Indeed Atlanta has lovely ladies. The workshops ranged from *Healing Internalized Homophobia, Homosexuality/Spirituality/Bible, Black Market Gender Reassignment,* and an *S&M Workshop*. Some of the other workshops were *Circle of Sisters* for women only, *Trans Forum, Men's Rap,* and *Talking Youth Extended*. For the first time, youth programming was offered throughout the event.

And, yes, I ran into many native Chicago folks. As I walked around I could not believe how the workshops and set-up reminded me a lot of the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity Conference. I thought "Could spin offs be taking place elsewhere, and if so KUDOS to CBLG!" Just an observation now, before you start calling me. For you poets, Saturday night offered you a spot at their *Speakfire*.

The folks in Atlanta always show their warm, southern hospitality. If you were tired of workshops, you could shop at their many information and vendor booths. Before I forget to mention, CLIKQUE, VENUS MAGAZINE and SOVO/ECLIPSE were the official media sponsors. Check out these magazines—they're Black and gay owned. Also, the weather was hot so you could take a ride up to the 4th floor for a dive, and lots of eye-catching bodies at the many pool parties.

For you brothers looking for a great time, and maybe a pickup, check out the club Fusion's on Friday nights. Yes, ladies, for an eye-full of pleasure Girls In the Night Productions is known for giving a show this entire weekend. Girls in the Night gave you pleasure and parties including a Wet and Wild pool party, and The Recovery Party Picnic Monday. Did I mention Ms. MC Lyte singer and entertainer was in town for a concert at one of the Girls in the Night parties? Baby, check this one out when in Atlanta. Also, Club Jaquar is a nice spot. For you lesbians and wannabes, My Sisters Place is a lesbian-owned and operated restaurant and bar in Decatur, Ga. This is a nice spot to have dinner or just chill and women watch. For you dancers, and laid-back folks, check out club Tower II. Sorry, guys, mostly women. I spotted author and activist Keith Boykin at the Black Gay Pride event. Keith was also in town to read at Outwrite Books from his latest, *Respecting the Soul*. Playwright Dr. Shirlene Holmes was also spotted.

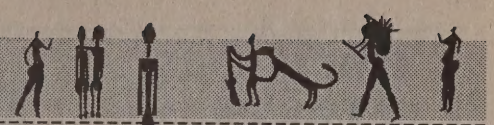
If you want to sample some of Momma's cooking, stop by Sylvia's Restaurant. This is one of my favorite places to eat. It offers an all-you-can-eat Sunday buffet, live jazz, and some great eye-catching sights. Sylvia's originated in Harlem. There is also Shark Bar, and Gladys Knight's place, famous for its chicken and waffles.

As always, when in Atlanta I had a tantalizing, great time. One thing that stuck in my mind was the question raised by Roderick Martin (from CLIKQUE): "How do we build our community?" Being active myself, I thought there are so many ways. We could start by supporting Black Gay Pride events, locally or nationally. We are all aware of what's called white skin privilege, which may never go away. And of course the color of our Black skin won't change, either. Recall all the Black gay and lesbian leaders who made it easier for all of us. And after I and all the other active folks and members are gone, we will still need people to carry on the struggle. Imagine not having BLACKLINES, which tries to show positive role models, and kill the so-called stereotypes of Blacks. Recall all the Black-owned and operated publications outside Chicago. Are you buying, giving an ad or two? Imagine if we had no conferences, Black gay and lesbian pride events. Does this sound as we would still be sitting at the back of the bus or near the kitchen? Well, even in the 1990s we still occasionally have to take a back seat. Next time you go to something and you do not like it, join and help. Drop a check in the mail if you cannot volunteer.

How do we build our community—by feeling proud first of ourselves, and each other? Maybe one day we will really tackle the issues of our own internalized racism, homophobia, class, gender, and age issues. Sometimes painful to face, but needed to be tackled, always. I am not saying we do not do this. We just need to continue dealing with it. Enjoy Black Gay Pride wherever you celebrate, be it Atlanta or Chicago. Celebrate your Black Gay Pride 365 days Proud and Strong. Remember to celebrate with safety. Kudos Atlanta ... see you next year.

[Look for Atlanta pics in next issue of BLACKLINES.]

PERSONALS



Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101.

To keep your free voice box active continuously, you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.

MEN

Attractive GBM 40+ 5'6" ISO new friendship. Maybe more. Variety of interests. Must be between 35-45, also romantic. **NLBOX553** *(10/13)*

Hi, guys. I am a black male, 48, looking good. Love to have sex. Am a top and quite a loving, nice person. Need a friend, any race. Write to me. **NLBox/Voice 52915** *(11)*

Cock slave. We met at the baths about 4 months ago. You asked me to be your cock slave. I foolishly let you get away. Let's talk. Please write me, with your sun sign, at **PO Box 408744, Chicago, IL 60640** and provide me with two dates with times that we can meet at the baths again. *(10)*

White Bottom 5'5" ISO mature ordinary gentlemen HIV- any race. You are: lonely, enjoy kissing, cuddling, lotsa sex. Be my boyfriend. **VM (773) 995-4091** *(10)*

Cock slave. We met at the baths about 4 months ago. You asked me to be your cock slave. I foolishly let you get away. Let's talk. Please write me, with your sun sign, at **PO Box 408744, Chicago, IL 60640** and provide me with two dates with times that we can meet at the baths again. *(10)*

GWM, tall, dark, lean, 30s, attractive, intelligent, humorous, seeks romantic, hyper-masculine GBM, hopefully for long-term monogamous relationship. **Voice 52911** *(10)*

WOMEN

GBF, ISO GBF over 27. No smokers, drug, alcoholics or studs. If you want to be appreciated, feel desired, experience passion, have stimulating conversation and are romantic, write me. Must have job. Be ready for fun. **NL 308** *(10/20)*

Sexy, feminine, GBF, seeking beautiful soft butch/stud for fun and adventure. She must love music, nightlife and legs. **Voice52914** *(10)*

Rogers Park interracial dyke couple, 31/29, seeks similar couples for urban excursions good food diversion and real conversations. Looking to find community or build one if necessary, Give us a call. **Voice 52920** *(10)*

This very attractive single black lesbian ISO the same for lots of good hot clean fun. She must be honest, trustworthy, caring, gorgeous, intelligent, employed, drug and disease free, mentally stable, have a sense of humor, and have her own transportation. If you're up to 5'4", no more than 120#, between 30 and 40 yrs young and fit the criteria above, then page me. (Please no studs, bisexuals, or heavies). **773 781-7880** *(12)*

Sexy, feminine, GBF, seeking beautiful soft butch/stud for fun and adventure. She must love music, nightlife and legs. **Voice52914** *(10)*

34 y/o GBF who's very difficult, stubborn, verbal, moody and spoiled. ISO a soft stud who's strong enough to deal with a person life myself. No full figure women, race unimportant. **Pager 226-5634** *(10)*

This very attractive lesbian is ISO a playmate for good hot fun. She must be black or of Latin descent, fem, attractive, intelligent, have a sense of humor, drug and disease free (light smoker okay), mentally stable, independent, and active (in many ways), between 35-50, 5'1"-5'7" up to 150 #. No studs. Pager 773 226-1518 *(10)*

GBF 40+ professional, playful, serious about success and in search of more out of life — would love to share a stress free, fun filled summer with employed, self assured, drug and disease free spirit(s). No bisexuals, gay experienced preferred. If you are 35-50 years young and want to live in the present and enjoy each moment to the fullest, do not hesitate write or e-mail me at **new** e-mail address: **aol.com.LOKN4JOYor NL Box 254** *(10)*

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, e-mail or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Classified rates ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	$_____

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

THEATRE: No Day like today— 'RENT'

by Lester Davis

When I think of survival, I think about rent being paid first. Well most people should; however being responsible for one's own actions, having compassion and dealing with personal issues is what *Rent* is all about.

Jonathan Larson's 1996 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning, Broadway musical *Rent* was inspired by Giacomo Puccini's 1896 Opera *La Boheme*. *La Boheme* is a story about four young artists and poets sharing an unheated flat living in Paris in the1830s. Larson reworked the artistic paradigm of Puccini's structure into a story that would convey an optimistic view of today's complex society. Jonathan Larson died unexpectedly the night after the show's final dress rehearsal of an aortic aneurysm on Jan. 25, 1996.

Michael Grief directs Larson's masterpiece by gripping your heart. *Rent* depicts the struggle of AIDS, homelessness, and urban poverty of artists living in a lofty warehouse in the East Village of New York City; which is similar to Puccini's *La Boheme*. There are eight artists or musicians that not only struggle to pay rent, but deal with life-threatening issues; and express freely their love for one another and their art.

The cast of *Rent* has been announced for the second national touring company (The Benny Company), currently touring North America and appearing at the Shubert Theater, 22 West Monroe in Chicago from through Oct. 10. The cast has eight wonderful main characters with a live band. Pierre Angelo Bayuga (Angel), a drag queen that is responsible for bringing his friends together as a family in the building which they live in, dies later in Act II from AIDS. Horace V. Rogers (Tom Collins), is a computer-age philosopher and Angel's lover. Cristina Fadale (Maureen), is Mark's ex-girlfriend, a protester for the homeless and Joanne's lesbian lover. Danielle Lee Greaves (Joann) is a lawyer who fights against the building being padlocked. Scott Hunt (Mark) is a filmmaker and the show's narrator. Christian Mena (Roger) is a rock 'n' roll musician who is HIV positive and refuses to go to any support group to deal with his status. Julia Santana (Mimi)—an original character taken from *La Boheme*—is an HIV-positive junkie, S&M dancer at a night club in NY who falls in love with Roger. Carl Thornton (Benny), is a former roommate of Mark and Roger and now the new owner of the building where everyone lives.

The musical numbers were composed, orchestrated and choreographed superbly throughout the production. "Light My Candle," a song by Mimi, was what sparked Roger's interest in her, while helping her to look for a bag of dope she lost. "La Vie Boheme/I Should Tell You" is when Roger and Mimi discovered that both them are HIV positive. "Take Me or Leave Me" is a scene where Maureen and Joanne are still rehearsing for a show, but it does not go too well. The frequent words of Larson's libretto- "No day but today"— are strengthened by seriousness and emotion in these performances.

Rent is a musical that touches home to a community (gay and lesbian) that still discriminates against people of color and ignores what is truly missing—love and compassion. *Rent* brought tears to my eyes thinking about the thousands of people we have lost to HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and homelessness right here in Chicago. Jonathan Larson wrote this story to let people in the world know that we still can embrace life. Remember, life is only a temporary lease. Call (312) 902-1500.

COMING OUT OF DARKNESS: Intimacy

by Sanford Gaylord

I've been wondering how I could write about intimacy for a while now. A recent e-mail from a reader of this column made me think that I should go ahead and give it a try. Intimacy can mean several different things to many people, but I'm referring to the intimate relationships that we may have with our good friends or sexual partners. These relationships can drudge up old issues and sometimes inhibit our acquiring or maintaining a new friend or a sexual partner. It's a challenge at times to lower my own shields and be sociable with people. I have discovered that I need to enjoy the moments: to laugh, play, flirt and not take the world and myself so seriously. It's far too easy to isolate and fall into the habit of not communicating.

In my case, my issues with intimacy were compounded after I tested positive for HIV. Years of losing friends and loved ones to this disease have made it difficult to make new ones. I fear making them only to lose them later. What has helped are support groups that I have attended where I'm around other people who look and talk like me who have traveled the same journey. The recovery process is an ongoing journey; wisdom and live experience are making the work of changing old behavior a lot easier. It's a good thing to remember that we can make time for anything that we truly desire.

With regard to sexual intimacy, I felt like damaged goods for years after receiving my diagnosis. I must admit, sex was the last thing I wanted to think about having with someone. My thinking was that it was the reason that I tested positive after choosing to forgo safer sex. I've realized that it also became one of the reasons that I abstained from having sexual relations with men for a while. I created many different things to try and fill the void of my desires and need for human touch. Some of them have been productive things that have helped me become the man that I am today: keeping myself busy with a job; pursuing an undergraduate degree, writing, and acting on stage to name a few.

There were times in the past that I would meet a man and be honest about my diagnosis only to deal with his rejection thereafter. That rejection that I received, as well as other brotha's that I know that are honest about their diagnosis concerns me. It concerns me because not everyone that we choose to have intimate sexual relations with are up front with you; many times there is never the mention of HIV or Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's), just getting the 'nut,' bathing in our denial. I'm still honest and up front with men I may encounter and there have been men in my life that have appreciated my honesty. I also have the luxury of being out about my sexuality and sero-status; not everyone has the same luxury. On the other hand, it's not easy 'outing' your sero-status every time one wants to engage with an intimate partner, but it does get easier.

My good friends have said that I should have no problems getting a man but I still have those damn issues to deal with and work through. I'm petrified of catching an STD or compromising someone else's sero-status. An STD on top of an immune system that is already compromised by HIV can be deadly. I know that there is nothing wrong with wanting to have sex or have an intimate sexual relationship with another person. I'm human and have needs. What's important for us to remember is that we should always try to practice safer sex with each intimate partner regardless of his or her sero-status, using condoms and water-based lubricants for each episode of sexual intercourse.

It's time to make time for it to happen and yet there are those haunting issues that I still need to work through before I choose to date. Just maintaining platonic relationships is hard work, especially those that lead as active a life as you might be. Besides, I need to know where a brotha's head is at in terms of his HIV knowledge. If the brotha happens to be positive I still need to know where his head is. Just because he's HIV+ doesn't mean that he'd be the right one.

Questions or comments? Write me care of BLACKlines or e-mail me at adogaylord@hotmail.com

GURLLLology

by Vicky Nabors

I was sitting on the back porch of my third-floor apartment one evening wondering what the heck I would write about in this column. As I sat watching squirrels play in a nearby tree, I realized that my view of the world from that height was beautiful. In the lush green trees were squirrels and birds enjoying its protective sanctuary. And, the sky was so clear and scenic that it gave me a sense of dreaming. I was shaken back to reality by the movement of airplanes circling above, waiting their turn to land at O'Hare. At that point I began to reflect on the world that I had just envisioned and the world that my flesh and blood body resided in. Man, a completely different picture emerged before my eyes. Hatred, violence, poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, suffering, religious obsessions, contamination, and greed seemed to be the key elements of my world. My mind floats back to Marvin Gaye's song, "Talk to me, so you can see—What's going on." It seems as if I'm engaged in an ongoing spiritual and emotional battle against the world in which I live.

When I look at my life as a Black lesbian and the lives of those around me who share my ethnicity and orientation, I see many similarities in the ways in which we struggle or have struggled. At the root of these struggles is religion, you know, the church, the pastor, deacons, choir, and ushers. And, from my catholic experience, the mass, nuns, father, rosary, Hail Mary's repeated numerous times, and confession. I'm on a roll now, and then there is my friend's struggle over Jehovah, and another who struggles with Buddha, and don't forget Allah. It doesn't make a difference what name you grew up calling your creator; my point is that many of you can relate to this religious experience.

Children, raised within the confines of a religious organization, are persuaded (brainwashed) over time to accept specific beliefs as the truth. Children don't have problems with these traditions because it provides the structure that they need in their young lives. The problem occurs when we grow up. As we step out into our adult life, many will pursue dreams and goals while others are just beginning to feel their way through life. This is often where the problem occurs. Many will fulfill career goals yet struggle with their inner-self while other women never seem to get a solid grip on life. But, we move on and try to look at the positive, ignoring the negative. It is at this point in the road where many Black lesbians find themselves

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BLACK PEARLS

by Sukie de la Croix

Excerpts from am interview with Connie

What was your first gay bar?

"In the Black areas they had a lot of small lounges. Actually, Mommy O's was the major, major lounge during that time. I came out six months to a year too late to go to Mommy O's, but it deserves a nominal mention if nothing else. But I think the first place I went to was in 1963, and it was called the Fiesta Lounge. It was on 43rd and Drexel. A friend of mine took me out and that's where everybody was going, so it was just that simple. There isn't anything really great that I can say about it, except everybody hung out there. It was basically a straight place, but they gave us Friday or Saturday night. It was all Black women in there. It wasn't a very great area even then. I didn't live in the neighborhood, but that's where we hung out at. It was kind of big, it had booths on one side, then a bar on the other side, then a big dance floor in the middle."

Role-playing ...

"I don't know about the other communities, but on the South Side we role-played, the butches were really into the men's clothes and the ladies were really frilled and feminine. The butches would be like gentlemen and ask us to dance and we did dance together. If there were any guys in the lounges I went to, most of the time they didn't bother us, they would very seldom ask us to dance. They gave us a kind of respect."

Kitty Kat Club ...

"I sure did go to the Kitty Kat Club, now that was a big place, compared to the Fiesta Lounge, and that was a mixed lounge. We had our spot though, we all sat on one side of the wall, I'll put it like that, I don't know how to explain it any better. They left that part for us. Straight people sat in the other areas and we danced together. We were ourselves wherever we went. The only problem we had was with the police; during that time they would lock up the studs for wearing fly-front pants. I went to jail myself a couple of times. I know once me and a lover was walking down the street and the police stopped us, and there was Stone, he would really hassle all the gay women, and all the gay guys too. He was a real terrible person. He would lock us up ... my charge was disturbing the peace. The charges would all be thrown out, so I didn't care. But I thought it was the worst thing in the world, winding up going to jail for nothing."

Did the community accept lesbians and gay men?

"Yes, I'd have to say they did, those of us that accepted ourselves, they did. I didn't have any problems getting an apartment, me and my lover. They knew that we were a couple, our friends weren't hassled, and they never made me feel like I wasn't a part of everything. Or that I was 'different.'"

Maxine's ...

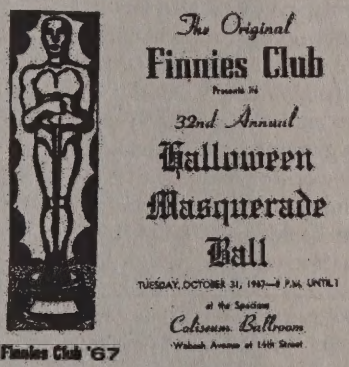
"That was on 79th Street and that was a real nice place. Maxine owned that lounge and she had a husband, and she used to mess around ... but I don't know if her husband knew about that. But she owned it, and she opened it up to us wide open. When that bar closed down she just disappeared off the face of the Earth."

Sons of Sappho ...

"I went to the Sons of Sappho's Balls. It was mostly girls, a ladies club, and they gave the affair every year, and the lesbians dressed up like men, with their lady friends. It was like going out to a real high class thing. They would have a show, like singers and people to perform, and they had some good entertainment. This was in the late '60s. As a matter of fact, they had just started having the Balls then. About 300-400 people turned up. It was packed, wall to wall. I'm trying to think if there were any men there, I'm sure there had to have been, because a couple of my friends were gay guys and they used to hang out with me. But it wasn't in a bar that they felt they could get into. Most of the guys went to the other Balls. The person that would win the King, won a trophy. It was a long time ago."

Hyde Park Lounge ...

"There was one that was a kind of a sawdust trail but everybody went there and it was called the Hyde Park Lounge, and it was on 63rd and Kenwood. Both groups went there, guys and girls. It was a straight bar and liquor store. Like I said, I don't know how we would wind up going to these places, I never figured it out. But suddenly this was the place to go and even though it was a sawdust trail we would get dressed up and go there."



Cover of program for famous South Side Drag Balls.

Any gay political groups in the '70s ...

"No, I was always too afraid to come out from under the covers. I supported things, but I wouldn't get involved where my name would appear. And actually, the Blacks didn't have that many, we kind of did things in a haphazard way, if it happened ... fine, if it didn't ... which was sad and pitiful, but that's just the way it was then. Most of the groups that I knew about on the South Side seemed to be into having a good time. If you were involved in a relationship and trying to keep the police officers like Stone from bothering you when you were trying to go out ... and that's a whole other side of it, the way we lived, just as an individual and not on the social scene. But on the social side we were trying to go out and have a nice time without being hassled or arrested."

Gangs ...

"The Black Stone Rangers at that time was the baseball team and they used to protect us oddly enough. I'll never forget that the Black Stone Rangers at the time was a nice group of guys, but later they were the same guys that wound up killing and everything. And that was during the time I was going to the Hyde Park Lounge. Back then they were a whole different frame of thought; they weren't as mean-looking as they became, just nice little kids ... they were a baseball team. They would come in the lounge, and there were a lot of guys coming in there, but if anyone was hassled they would step right up and say, 'Leave her alone.' And it wasn't in a belligerent manner, but we knew them all, the whole group, the beginning group of gang members."

Day to day ...

"It was difficult keeping a job, almost impossible, a lot of us didn't work. I was lucky to find a job and keep it, but some of my friends wasn't able to get jobs, or if they would, then they couldn't keep them. The butcher ones, that was unacceptable on the work force. A lot of them had a real tough time being themselves and working. Now if they were willing to put on a dress and wear lipstick then yes they could. But they wouldn't keep it up. Most of them didn't do it everyday. I had a couple of friends who put on dresses and went to work and wore make up every day and they made it. The other ones didn't. Not until later, when they had like security officers ... I guess more jobs opened up in what was considered a man's field."

Be a part of reclaiming our history. Send your stories, memories and information to Sukie . He also interviews over the phone or by e-mail sukiedelacroix@iname.com

What's The '411'

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Advice with an attitude!

SEX AT THE GYM?!?

Dear Readers:

We are family, folks. And sometimes as a family, we need to clear the air about occurrences at home (in this case, in our community). Yes, it's time for a family chat, so stop what you're doing and pull up a chair. Grab some coffee or your favorite beverage. Are you comfortable? Good. Now, I have a question to ask. Is it just me or has cruising at the gym becoming a tad bit ridiculous? Before we dive into this highly sensitive topic, let me clarify this discussion. Let me be crystal clear: I'm not speaking about someone who may look or glance at another person across the gym floor and comment "this guy/girl is hot or cute." I'm also not referring to body admiration (i.e.: someone looking at another person's arms or chest saying 'I want to work on mine a bit more.'). I'm talking about guys who specifically go to the gym, bypassing all the exercise equipment, making a beeline for the showers to masturbate and/or have anonymous sex. Now, do I have your attention? Good!

Having said this comment, in all probability, I haven't said anything that isn't already known. Many in the GLBT community know that there are several gyms notorious for their cruisy nature. However, the question becomes, is a gym a place to condition one's body or one's groin? Is the establishment a gym, first, and then a public sex environment, or vice versa? I mean the thought that a fair number of GLBT men and women actually go to the gym to work out and not be "worked" (picked up) is not a ludicrous idea, folks!?! Some may be thinking: "WHAT? He/She wishes to have a decent weight lifting experience free from "sexual sharks"?

YES! But instead of being respected, quite often, these individuals may become labeled as "prudish," "stuck up," or "tired" for choosing not to participate in sexual "favors" offered by others. Let me be clear regarding my own position. While I'm certainly not anti-sex, What part of "no" don't folks understand? No should mean no. Period. End of the discussion!

And so, I will restate the question: in your opinion, is there ever a time that it becomes inappropriate not to be sexual in a public environment? One specific reason that I'm asking again is due to a recent incident that occurred at my gym. About two weeks ago, a heterosexual male was complaining to a gym locker attendant that he did not feel comfortable taking a shower due to all the sexual acts at the gym. Many gay/bi gym members overheard this rather loud and intense conversation. Most stated that the straight male just should leave the club. "This is our gym and this is just a part of our culture, so just get over it!" One young male commented.

When he stated, "this is a part of our culture" statement, it stuck me as a serious *Hmm* moment. My thoughts accelerated. I concluded that I would not agree with the young gay male's comment. Can public sexual behavior be so easily categorized as a GLBT "cultural event"? Was the young gay man really saying that with all the testosterone raging, he just has to have the brother standing in the next shower stall at the gym or he will just explode?? The first question that popped into my head was: if you're interested in the guy, why not ask him out on a date, or invite him to a private space for sex and go from there? Another question, y'all: what if the shoe was on the other foot? There was a heterosexual couple in the shower rubbing their groins and having intercourse? Would you feel comfortable? I know I wouldn't and vice versa, I still do not feel comfortable when we in the GLBT community choose to participate in the same behavior. In this case, I would have to agree with the heterosexual male. There were also other gay members who did also agree with the gay male in the locker room as well. It's a public gym. Everyone is entitled to the facility.

In addition, another point of interest: what if the workout establishment chooses to tape the shower room activity? Why risk the embarrassment of being tape recorded and/or prosecution? Besides, if it's all about the "thrill," there are other avenues available for the thrill seekers. If you are into more decadent sexual adventures, there are other establishments available, such as bathhouses and bookstores that could provide far more safety than a gym locker room.

Although, we are apart of the same GLBT family, we are not all monolithic in thought! We have different tastes. In my humble opinion, we are all accountable for our actions, including those of a sexual nature. In short, our actions can speak a lot louder than our words. But, let's try to be respectful of each other. You may not agree but everyone is entitled to their opinion. This happens to be my food for thought. Whatever your thang is, remember, Smart Sex is always a must!!

Until next time, Peace and Blessings readers. Questions? Comments? By all means, email me a note: PrestonMSW@aol.com

VICKY from 26

confused and angry because they can't seem to find that inner peace. It all leads back to our early religious programming. We were raised to believe that the lifestyle that we lead is wrong and sinful. So, we struggle daily with the two lives that we are forced to lead, we lie to others and ourselves. It is not an easy thing to deprogram your soul because religious teachings penetrate our souls.

Many outspoken women in our community have escaped, but the majority of you my sista's, have not. I feel blessed that I was pulled out of my confused state by an elder Black sista from a local church. I slowly began to see my position in life and fully understood the answers to my struggles. What about you my sistas? You either support the system and privately struggle or you work to free yourself from it and enjoy a sense of rebirth through freeing your mind. Deep thought is our birthright, but those in power creatively take our ability to think for ourselves away. Here are some things to think about, why do more women attend church than men? Are God's words so small that they fit neatly in a book written my man?

People interpret the Bible in their own way and everyone's interpretation is designed to give them power or to prove a point. I am a Christian because I love my God, but I am not a religious woman, there is a difference and my world is beautiful.

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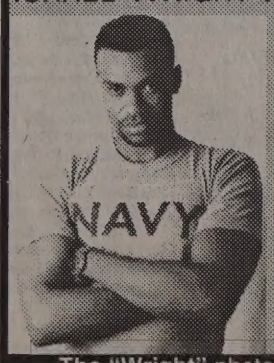

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World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

You BET!

BET Holdings is taking its Black Entertainment Television brand to the Web with BET.com. BET lined up Microsoft Corp., Liberty Digital, and USA Networks to fund the joint venture with $35 million in seed money.

BET Chairman Robert Johnson is championing BET.com as the most significant economic investment on the Internet by an African-American-owned company. BET Holdings already operates BET (a general programming cable channel), BET on Jazz, and BET/Starz!, a pay-movie channel. Despite its powerful allies, BET will keep majority ownership of the new Web venture.

BET.com will act as a portal for African Americans, covering relevant issues in news, entertainment, sports, education, health, finance, technology, and travel. The site will offer e-mail and instant messaging services and interactive chat communities.

Also, BET says the site will market and sell products and services that focus on the African-American market, such as urban apparel, books, music, and beauty care products. ("Ah, the pleasure of Dark and Lovely...")

BET.com is slated to kick off in November and on-line shopping capabilities in time for the holiday season.

▼▼▼▼▼

National Coming Out Day is October 11. If you're wrestling with identity issues or thinking of the best way to break the news to Grandma, consult sites like Coming Out (www.lambda.org/coming-out.htm) and Coming Out to Your Parents (www.libertynet.org/pflag/brochure.html). Also, check out National Coming Out Day for African Americans (abacus.oxy.edu/qrd/www/culture/black/discussion/cominghome.html), a cerebral discussion of the implications coming out has for Blacks.

▼▼▼▼▼

Contact me at gemini1@nwu.edu.

TOP: HUNDREDS OF MEN AND WOMEN ENJOYED THE ANNUAL LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT CRUISE ON THE LAKEFRONT. PHOTO BY ISRAEL WRIGHT

BELOW: PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL LAMBDA LADIES AT THE LINKS GOLF BENEFIT IN SEPTEMBER. A POST-EVENT BBQ WAS AT STAR GAZE. PICS BY JEAN YOUNG

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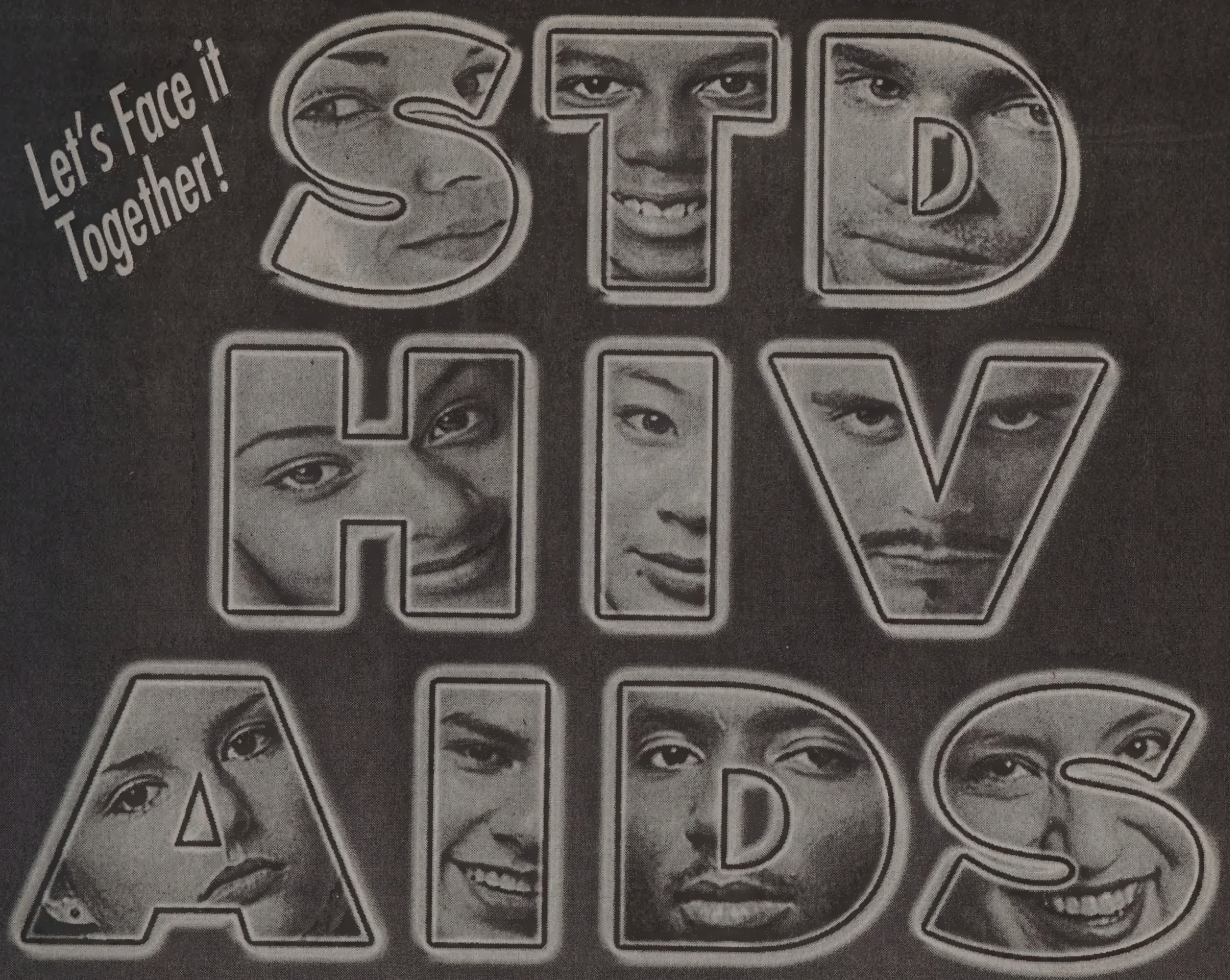

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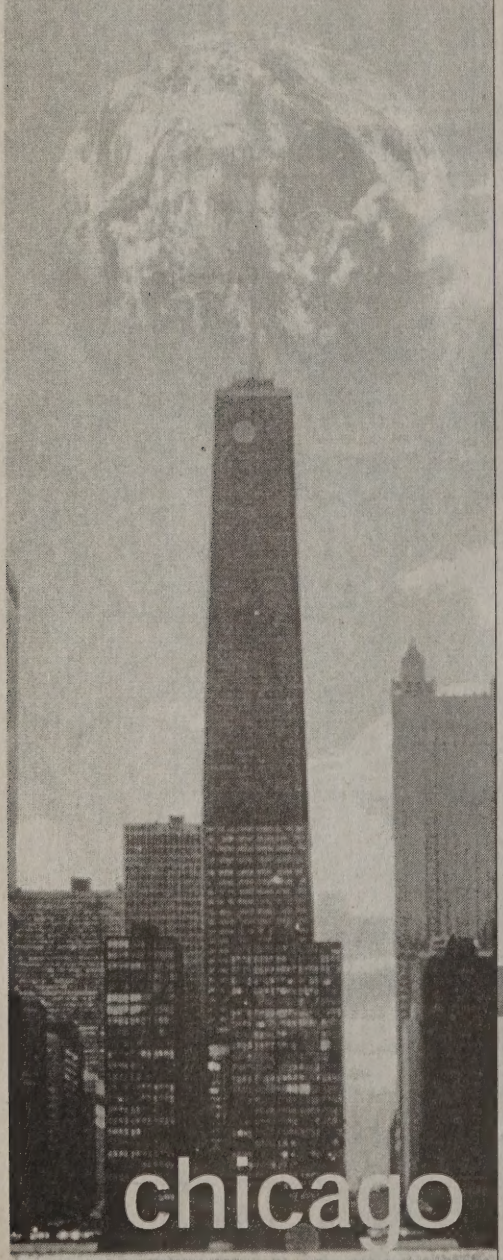

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THE PLAY IS THE WORD

Playwright Shirlene Holmes (ABOVE) is in Chicago this month as A Real Read (RIGHT) performs her works in the 'All Out Festival.' Lots of local gay talent will be performing and directing in the festival. See page 21.

ALSO INSIDE:
Pat's Pics, bell hooks, CBLG conference, & more!

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March 1999
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Art/Design:
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PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Terri S. Klinsky, Trish Koch, Kathleen Ulm
Israel Wright, Daniel Finley, Robert Schultz

Editorial: D. Jean Albright

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: **outlines@suba.com**

World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

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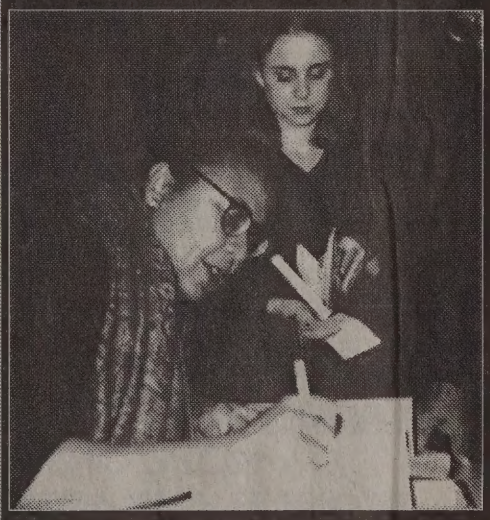

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is on the World Wide Web:
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ELECTION NEWS: BLACKlines went to press before the Feb. 23 elections. See next month for results.

BLACKlines

DEADLINE is the 5th of each month for articles, calendar, photos, art, poetry, viewpoints, etc. Material used on a space-available basis.

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

March 8th is International Womyn's Day and most of the chocolate sisters have the dance on their minds. "Who will I invite?" "Can I afford tickets for both of us? Damn! Twenty dollars! Weren't they cheaper last year?" "How can I juggle things so I can take her to dinner too?" "Will we spend the night together?" "How many ex-lovers will I run into? Will we slow dance, for old time's sake, and when we talk, remember why we aren't together anymore?"

The dance is great and the organizations that will benefit from the ticket sales are doing some fabulous things in the community. But since life is more than a song and dance, I ask, what are you doing the following Monday and earlier in the day on Saturday? (I know a couple of my ex's will spend the entire day at the beauty shop and barely make it back in time to go to the dance. But that's another story/yeah.)

For years, I have gone to the Womyn's Day demonstration and rally and most of those years I have been one of the speakers. At planning meetings and on the day of, I have been one of only a handful (if that many) of Black faces in the crowd. Even when there are Black organizations that are co-sponsors of the event, there still doesn't seem to be much of a difference in the numbers of the attendees with skin like mine.

I used to think it was partially due to the weather during the lunchtime demonstration and rally, during which participants walk from location to location and hear a diverse group of female speakers talk about issues important to womyn locally, nationally and internationally. Part of the problem, I think, for colored girls, is that March has usually come in like a lion and that brisk downtown wind is not kind to our African--I want to be warm--bodies. So being in often sub-freezing weather for an hour or two does not sound appealing enough, no matter who the speaker nor how powerful the message. Also if folks aren't working downtown, maybe getting time off doesn't work.

I used to think the weather was a factor. But since the International Women's Day Coalition began sponsoring a conference, in addition to the demonstration and rally, I still haven't really noticed an increase in the number of Black folks. Now, these womyn love me and my presentations. That's why they ask me to speak so often. In fact, I will be a presenter at this year's conference. I also love them and love being a part of our day and our month. I know many of the womyn involved in the planning process, and I am aware of how warm and welcoming they are. Now that part of the festivities are inside, thus warm, and still welcoming, where are the Black womyn? This is the 5th annual conference. There are Black organizations that are co-sponsors. Former co-sponsors are Affinity and Yahimba. Are the conference topics not of much interest to Black womyn? Are outreach efforts not working? The theme of this year's conference is "Building a Global Women's Movement." Sisters, are we going to be part of the planning and part of that movement? Help me out. I'm clueless.

The 5th Annual Women's Day Conference will be Saturday, March 6. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chicago-Kent College of Law. For more info call (773) 278-6706.

Trying to cope with the pressure of living with HIV/AIDS?

HORIZONS

PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICES CAN HELP.

We provide counseling to individuals and couples who are facing the challenges of living with **HIV/AIDS.**

Let us help you with HIV/AIDS issues such as:

◆ self esteem ◆ feeling good ◆ medications
◆ dating & relationships ◆ depression and grief
◆ protease inhibitor dilemmas ◆ legal advice
◆ dealing with family & friends

Contact **(773) 929-HELP**
for information on how to get started.
WE CAN HELP

HORIZONS
COMMUNITY SERVICES
Chicago's Lesbian & Gay Community Center

Paid Volunteers Needed!

African-American Men

who have sex with men are needed to participate in a research project being conducted at

Loyola University Chicago

The study examines racial, sexual, and gender identity development. Volunteers are paid **$20** to complete a confidential survey lasting 60 minutes.

Interested individuals may call (773) 508-8903 for more information

It happens in ***Our Community***, too.

Support Group for lesbians who experience **abuse** from their partners.

Call Daphne at the Women's Program: **773/847-4417**

TIA/CHICAGO CONNECTIONS
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PARTNER

North and South side locations available

Affinity Calendar of Events
March 1999

March 4, 1999:
Healthy Woman Series, 7 p.m.

March 5, 1999:
Financial Freedom Workshop
presented by D. Lisa Powell
7-9 p.m., $10 workshop fee

March 6, 1999:
10th Annual International
Women's Day Benefit Dance
At the Congress Hotel, 8 p.m.-2 a.m.
(Co-sponsored with the Literary Exchange,
Women's Assistance Fund and Chicago
Metropolitan Battered Women's Network)

March 11, 1999:
Lez Chat —
Basic Massage and Sexual Play —
with Pat McCombs, 7 p.m.

March 20, 1999:
Forty Plus meets 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

March 27, 1999:
Ubaka Hill Drumming Workshop
Sliding Scale fee, call for details

Unless otherwise noted all events
held at Affinity,
First Unitarian Church,
5650 S. Woodlawn,
Garden Level
(312) 409-7609

FINANCIAL FREEDOM WORKSHOP

Sponsored by Affinity

This workshop, presented by D. Lisa Powell, will inspire you and show you how to start where you are, with what you've got and earn financial independence.

Whether you're a beginner and need to know where to start, or advanced and would like input on your portfolio, this workshop can save your life.

Friday, March 5
7-9 p.m.
First Unitarian Church
5650 S. Woodlawn, Garden Level
RSVP (312) 409-7609

$10 workshop fee

Another historic ruling in South Africa

by S. Predrag

SOUTH AFRICA—The Cape High Court established yet another precedent in South Africa by ruling in favor of Franck Joly, a 20-year-old Paris business school graduate, who was finally allowed to join his partner, Hilton Kaplan, a 32-year-old Cape Town plastic surgeon.

Three High Court judges declared deportation orders against gays illegal, and Section 28 of the Aliens Control Act unconstitutional.

It was a historic ruling, allowing the foreign partners of South Africans to settle in this country whose immigration laws discriminated against same-sex couples.

Joly was recently barred from entering South Africa and was even detained in a solitary cell at Cape Town International Airport.

South African immigration authorities threatened Joly with deportation and asked him to pay a 3000 South African Rand repatriation deposit (around 500 U.S. dollars).

However, the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE) made an urgent application to have the Aliens Control Act declared unconstitutional.

Judge Dennis Davis and two other judges of the High Court in Cape Town allowed Franck Joly to enter South Africa and the respondents—the Minister of Home Affairs, the Director General of Home Affairs and the Regional Department of Home Affairs—were ordered to pay the costs of the application.

Last year, in Cape Town, a number of South African gay and lesbian partners, including Kaplan and Joly, gave evidence to Parliament's portfolio committee on home affairs, pleading for the Aliens Control Act to be changed. They specifically asked that same-sex and unmarried couples in a committed relationship should be given the same status as spouses.

"For these couples," stated the South African influential daily, THE STAR, "the possibility of making a home in South Africa and evading the chilling threat of deportation could lie in changing the meaning of a single word."

Namely, the NCGLE insisted that the term "partner" should be included to signify those people who could get an immigration and residence permit. Taught by their earlier battles with the authorities, the NCGLE this time specified that "partner" should mean "a person irrespective of sex, permanently and lawfully resident in the Republic, living together or intending to live together in an intimate and committed domestic partnership."

Their intention was to leave no legal loopholes which would allow for discrimination against homosexuals. They had already had a negative experience in 1998 with Albert Mokoena, the Director-General of Home Affairs, who had stated under oath that he would exempt couples from section 28 of the Aliens Control Act.

During the hearings, last December, the Home Affairs Director-General had promised to treat both lesbian and gay applicants with dignity and due consideration.

However, just weeks after that, Franck Jolly was detained at Cape Town airport and asked to pay a deportation fee.

It is a well-known fact that tens of thousands of Mozambicans, Zimbabweans and other nationals are deported each year from South Africa, but it appears that only gays and lesbians are asked to pay a deportation fee.

Immigration officials attempted to explain the inconsistency, hiding behind the rule that it is at their discretion to decide who will pay the deportation fee.

But, such an explanation evidently did not impress the three High Court judges in Cape Town and, of course, Zackie Achmat of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality, who described their ruling as a historic precedent for South Africa.

Another precedent was set last year by Judge JP Roux who ruled that police regulations excluding gay and lesbian officers from registering their partners with Polmed (medical aid) were unconstitutional.

In his ruling, the judge Roux said that it was time for South African law to recognize committed gay and lesbian relationships as being no different from those of married couples.

The ruling came after a lesbian police officer in Pretoria filed a lawsuit in the High Court against the police medical aid society, Polmed, for refusing to register her female partner as a dependant.

South Africa is still the only country in Africa whose constitutional court recently declared consensual sexual intercourse between members of the same sex as being no longer unlawful, underlining that a person may not be discriminated against on the ground of his or her sexual orientation.

GAY GROUP BLASTS BANANA

The group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) forcefully denounced former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana Jan. 28 after Banana defamed gays.

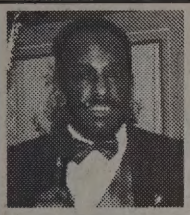
On Jan. 18, Banana, 63, was sentenced to prison with labor on 11 counts of forcing himself sexually on aides, bodyguards, a cook and a gardener—all males.

Yet, in a new interview with the FINANCIAL GAZETTE, Banana said: "Homosexuality ... is a deviant social behaviour. It is abominable. It is wrong not only according to the scriptures but also according to our culture."

He added, "There is absolutely no truth in these charges [against me]."

GALZ members were appalled. "It is one thing for you [Banana] to remain silent or neutral about homosexuality; it is quite another for you to castigate us when you have been convicted of engaging in homosexual activity yourself," spokesman Keith Goddard said in an open letter.

"To describe your own kind as deviant and abominable is to define yourself as a sell-out. ... GALZ was constantly asked to comment on your trial and your personal life and we refused. Instead, we commented on the issues we believed were relevant to the trial: sexual assault, decriminalising consensual sodomy, abuse of office and whether or not it was possible for you to receive a fair trial in such a homophobic climate. ... Rumours of your homosexuality have abounded within the gay community for many years. Nevertheless, we have consistently maintained a policy never to out people ... . Now you have the audacity to contribute to the hate campaign against us. Even though you do not wish to identify ... as a fellow gay person or lend support to this organisation and its activities, we would ask that, in future, you refrain from making comments which are damaging to the work of GALZ and the lives of the people we represent." —*Rex Wockner*



Brian Davis Foundation benefit

The 3rd annual Brian Davis Memorial Foundation benefit was held Feb. 13 at Ann Sather's, with special guest Laura Jones from Fox News. Roslyn Davis, mother of Brian (who died of AIDS complications) created the foundation in her son's memory to help raise funds for the fight against AIDS in the African-American community. TOP, LEFT: MC Reginald Jackson. RIGHT: Roslyn and her son Kevin (front), along with board members and Jones. FAR LEFT: Roslyn with Jones. MIDDLE: Patrons at the event. BELOW, LEFT: Cathy Gardner (from the CHICAGO DEFENDER) was honored by Roslyn for support of the fund. MIDDLE: Lora Branch and Debra Brown. RIGHT: Roslyn, Gardner, and Warner Baxter. Photos by Brian McGee

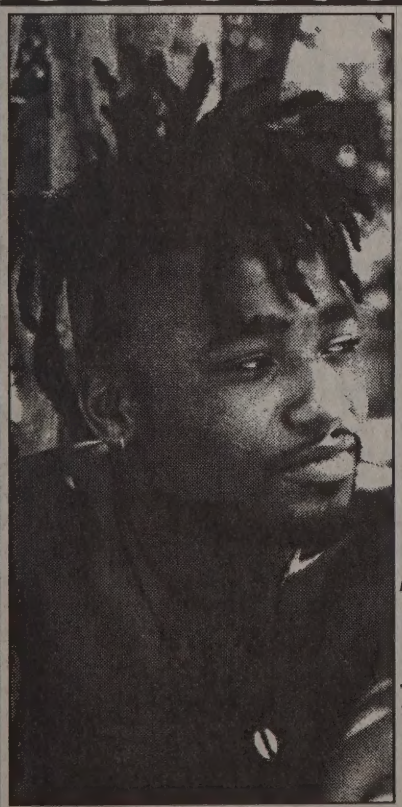


Photo By: Israel Wright

ADODI CHICAGO

A gathering for men of African Descent who love other men.

ADODI CHICAGO

meets the first Saturday each month at MOIP offices located at 1255 S. Wabash. Join us for lively conversation and an opportunity to fellowship with other **ADO**s.

ADODI, is the plural of **ADO**, a Yoruba word that describes a man who loves another man. More than just a description of partners, in Africa, the **ADODI** of the tribe were revered as shamans, sages and leaders.

For more information call **312-458-9584**

VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. (The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.) **VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH** Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED** People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live

WHAT YOUR **PROTEASE INHIBITOR** CAN BE:

longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate

Agouron
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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POWERFUL AND
EASY TO LIVE WITH.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should <u>not</u> take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

  Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

  This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

  These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

  If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs

  VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

  The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)

  The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do **not** have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

CBLG confab in April

Barbara Smith

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays will host its 5th annual community development conference, Unity V, on Friday through Sunday, April 16-18, at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. "And Still We Rise: Vision Toward Our Future," is this year's conference theme. The site is wheelchair accessible and sign language interpreters will be available.

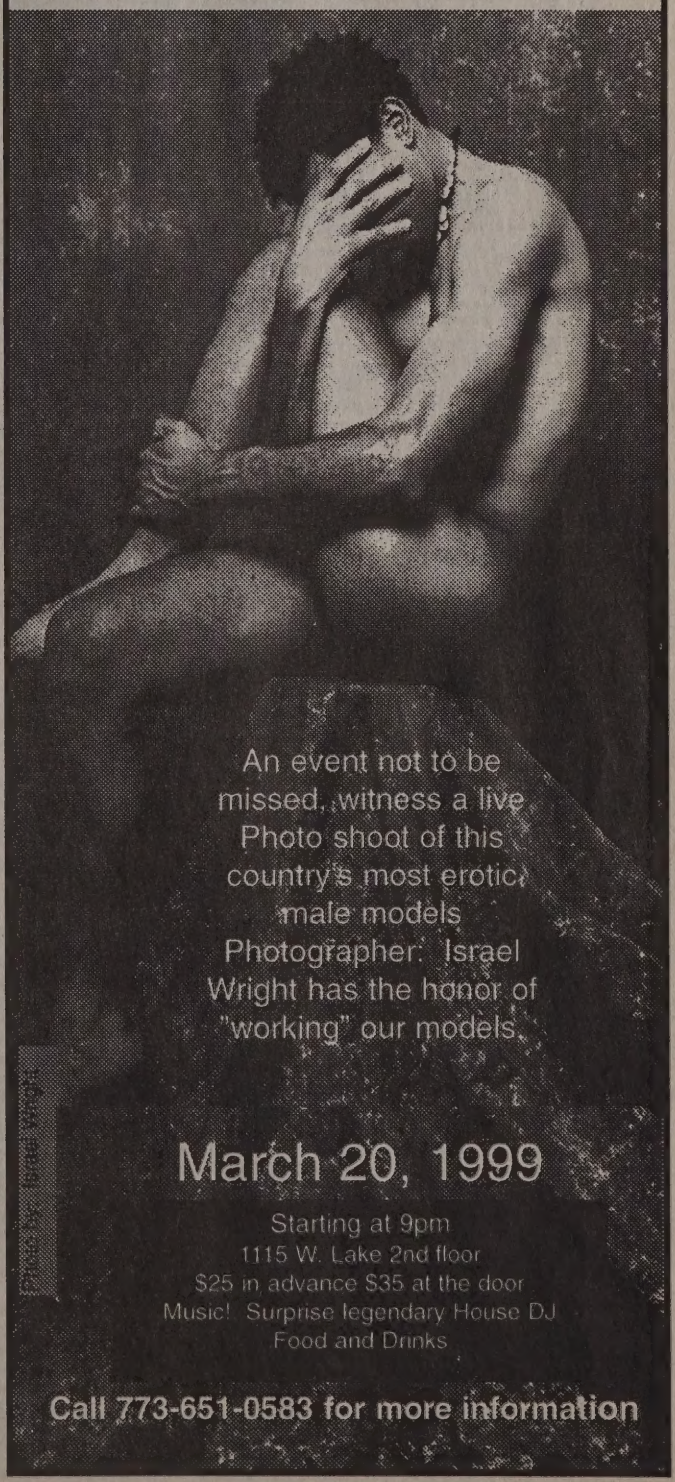
Barbara Smith, Rev. Carol Johnson, and Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones will be the keynote speakers at the conference. Smith recently published *The Truth That Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender and Freedom.* Rev. Johnson is one of the first African-American inductees into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones is currently a professor of Cultural Sciences at the Starr King School of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

The conference co-chairs are Susan Stanley and Robert Schultz. Conference committee chairs include Program Committee Donna Rose Weems and Joseph Boynton; Outreach Pat McCombs; Public Relations Vernita Gray and Israel Wright; Volunteer Shamarili Majmudar and Kuashan Collier; Logistics Verna Turner and Charles Clifton; Resource Development Rebecca Pope and Chris Bell; Youth Brad Moore and Horizons Community Services Youth Group.

Volunteers interested in helping should call (312) 409-4917.

Johnathan Blackwell
and
Club Voltage Productions
Present
Le Session


An event not to be missed, witness a live Photo shoot of this country's most erotic male models Photographer: Israel Wright has the honor of "working" our models.
March 20, 1999
Starting at 9pm
1115 W. Lake 2nd floor
$25 in advance $35 at the door
Music! Surprise legendary House DJ
Food and Drinks
Call 773-651-0583 for more information

10th Annual International Women's Day Benefit Dance 1999

Saturday, March 6, 1999
8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
Congress Hotel, The Great Hall
520 S. Michigan
$20 advance, $25 at the door. No Personal Checks at door.
DJ Sheron Webb ~ Dancing
Appetizers ~ Cash Bar ~ Craft Bazaar
SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE
Tickets are available from members of each organization and at
Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark
Call (773) 509-6881
A fundraising event sponsored by: The Literary Exchange, AFFINITY, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, and the Women's Assistance Fund.
Co-spons. OUTLINES/BLACKLINES/EN LA VIDA/NIGHTLINES
Stay all night! Special room rate available if you mention IWD.

CALENDAR

Wed., Feb. 24

Chi Public Library celebrates Black History Month with free events thruout Feb @ every branch. Call local library for details. AND Harold Washington Lib branch presents exhibition, "Free at Last: A History of the Abolition of Slavery in America," thru Feb, free @ 400 S State. (312) 747-4999. AND Woodson Regional Lib presents "African-Americans of Achievement" film series; 10:30a, free. (312) 747-6900.

DuSable Museum *Down in the Delta,* dir Maya Angelou. 7:30p, $6 (mmbrs $4). @ DSM, 740 E 56th (773) 947-0600.

Guild Complex Musicality of Poetry Festival V!!–tonite, 5A Artists kickoff GC 10th Anniv "Ten Pak" celebration w/ poetry (by Arocho, Parks, Corwin, Foreman, Kirst & Young), music (by Nikki Mitchell, George Blaise, Jauqo III-X & Virus X) & art (by Ivan Watkins & Susana Sandoval); Mario hosts. 7:30p, $10 ($5 st/sr), no open mic. @ GC's Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. (773) 296-1268, x26.

HotHouse D-Settlement (pt of new Black Arts Collective, Marvin Tate's revue is multi-genre music/wds/groove) 8p, $5 (312) 362-9707.

Kindred Hearts Breaking Up Grp's 1st mtg of 6, $30 ($18 mmbrs), 7p @ 2214 Ridge Ave, Evanston, Ill. (847) 604-0913; KndrdHrts@aol.com.

LINKS Pride Youth Prog center for sexual minority youth seeks input on what services north suburban young gay adults want (ages 18-23). Focus/discussion grps 7:30-9p today & Mar 3 @ Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge, Evanston, IL. (847) 441-9880.

NewTown Writers open rdg (10" ea rdr), 7:30p @ Unabridged Bookstore, 3251 N Broadway. (773) 784-9015.

Northeastern Ill University Center for Inner City Studies hosts Black History Month events: today, "Community Real Estate Development in Bronzeville" seminar panel, noon; AND Af-Am Films/Video Festival, 1-3p; both free @ 700 E Oakwood (773) 268-7500..

Open Hand Chicago SouthSide Grocery Center needs volunteers to help provide food/nutrition services for ppl living w/ & significantly affected by HIV/AIDS; on West 75th near Vincennes. (773) 665-1000.

Roosevelt University Black Feminism Discussion Grp begins, 4th Weds, 4-5:30p, free. @ Roosevelt Univ, 430 S Michigan, rm 232.

Women & Children First notable lesbian-feminist belletrist (& mystery writer) Barbara Wilson 7:30p. 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

WTTW channel 11 PBS presents "Paul Robeson: Here I Stand–An American Masters Special" documentary on the famed Af-Am scholar, singer, actor, athlete, author, activist, & subject of House Un-American Activities Sub-Committee interrogation in 1950s. 9-11p.

Thursday, Feb. 25

Art Institute Black History Mo. events: today, ""Vocies from African: Minkisi–Powerful Objects to Harm or Heal," 12:15p, (312) 443-3600.

Chicago House & So Side Help host "There's No Time Like the Present" cocktail recep to debut David Cisko-designed ltd-edition watch ($25 ea @ event or Chi retail outlets), 5:30-7:30p, $20 @ New Gallery of Sawbridge Studios, (312) 642-0203, x223.

Color Triangle 1st "Leadership Forum: Taking a Stand Against Racism" 6:30-9p (invitation only). (312) 744-7911.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America participates in Salute to African-American Veterans, noon @ Daley Plaza (773) 752-0058

Girlbar Hysterical Women 8p

HotHouse dbl bill: Jim Baker, Steve Hunt, Brian Sandstrom & Francois Houle w/ Scott Fields & Jason Lee Roebke, 8p, $8 @ 31 E Balbo, (312) 362-9707.

Landfall Press artprints exhibit/sale benefits CHALK (Chi Art Link 4 Kids) & MRIC of Children's Memorial Hosp, 5:30-8p @ 329 W 18th St, suite 601. (312) 543-7008.

Wright College Natl Eating Disorders Day: free confidential screening 9a-1:15p, rm S101.

Friday, Feb. 26

Affinity "It's a Play Thang" food, fun & games. @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). Info/rsvp (312) 409-7609.

Art Instituteof Chicago lecture for Feb: "African American Art in the Art Institute," 12:15p, in Gallery 100. (312) 443-3600.

Chi Symphony Orchestra premieres *Hold On*: Symphony No. 3, by Af-Am composer Olly Wilson, plus Mozart, Copland, Dvorak (dir Wm Eddins). Tonite 8p, $7-30 @ Christ Universal Temple, 11901 S Ashland. (Also Feb 27 & Mar 2). Tix (312) 294-3000.

Film Center Chi premiere of documentary *Hallelujah! Ron Athey: A Story of Deliverance.* Athey is gay, HIV+, s/m blood-letting performance artist (312) 443-3737. Ask for other dates.

GLAAD recep w/ bd mmbrs Mary Morten, David Springer, commun rel dir Cathy Renna & LesBiGay Radio's Alan Amberg: 6-8p, $35 don incl yr's mmbrship. @ Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted. (800) 429-6334, x13.

Horizons Youth Grp hosts "House Party" (ages 14-23), 7-10p (773) 472-6469.

HotHouse The Funky Wordsmyths Anniversary Party 9p, $10 (312) 362-9707.

Howard Brown Health Center "Manifestations of Shame in Lesbian Lives: Clinical Implications," 2-4p, $20 pros ($10st). @ HBHC, 4025 N Sheridan. (773) 388-8904.

Hoxie's BBQ Downstairs: Jan Coleman, 8:30p, $5 don. @ (773) 989-4802.

Kindred Hearts Fri Nites Grp "Video Nite" 7:30p Evanston, (847) 604-0913.

Manhole RubberBall

OutWrite 1999 8th annual Queer Writers' Conference in Boston, Mass. Speakers incl Pratibha Parmar, Mark Doty, Barbara Smith, Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, (Chicagoan) Achy Obejas, Amber Hollibaugh, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Timothy Liu, Craig Lucas, Karla Jay, Samuel Delaney, Jewelle Gomez, Eric Orner, Ann Bannon, Sarah Schulman, Michael Bronski, *et al!* 100+ panels & wkshops. Boston, MA. (617) 262-6969.

Rails @ the Prop House Fridays: tonite, Producer/DJ Ralphi Rosario, Bernard Johnson B-Day Celebration (Rails founder & promo). $5 admit w/ BLACKLINES ad. @ 1675 N Elston, (708) 802-1705; ChocolateCityUSA.Com.

Temptations Cathy Richardson Band 9p. 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park, (847) 455-0008.

T-PAN (Test Positive Aware Netwk) "98 into 99 Bar Crawl," @ SPIN. $2 @ door, get yr "Crawl Card" stamped this month 2 qualify for prizes--& benefit TPAN. @ Belmont & Halsted. (773) 404-8726.

U of C Children's Hospital "Friends Against AIDS Gala" w/ cabaret singer Julie Wilson, Four Seasons (773) 702-3853.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Art Institute Black History Mo events: today, "Behind the Lions Family Day" 12:30-3:30p in Kraft Educ Center; AND Lecture Series: "Art of Central Africa: Tradition & Transformation," w/ Columbia College Chi art historian Kate Ezra. 1p, Morton Auditorium @ (312) 443-3600.

DuSable Museum *Mahalia Jackson: God Give the Glory,* (773) 947-0600.

GLAAD offers trng services & tech assistance prog "MediaEssentials" conudcted by GLAAD's Cathy Renna; in partnership w/ GLSEN/Chi. Incl media strategy, intervu techniques, media pro panel disc. Today or Sun, 9a-5p @ DePaul Unviersity, McGaw Hall, 802 W Belden. (847) 568-3682.

Horizons Community Services "The Real Chat Rm" Sat discussion series: today, "105. *Ellen* vs. *Will & Grace*: What Does Being Out on TV Really Mean?" 10a-noon, $8, pre-reg requ. @ 961 W Montana. Info/rsvp (773) 472-6469.

HotHouse Amnesty Intl reception 6-9:30p; AND Beau O'Reilly hosts evening of "not-so-folk songs"10p, $8 @ 31 E Balbo, (312) 362-9707.

Hoxie's BBQ Downstairs: History of the Blues prog for kids, w/ Shirley Coleman noon-4p; Jan Coleman performs 8:30p, (773) 989-4802.

Star Plaza Jazz Explosion, w/ Will Downing, Gerald Albright, Vesta & Phil Perry

Sunday, Feb. 28

Art Institute "Janice Harrington's Trunk Tales," 111 S Michigan (312) 443-3600

Film Center Chi premiere of Lisa Lewenz's & Ella Arnhold Lewen's poignant film diary of one German-Jewish family *A Letter Without Words* (312) 443-3737.

Kindred Hearts Lesbians After 40 Grp goes to Babes & Blades @ Footsteps Theater, 5230 N Clark, 2p. KH @ 2214 Ridge Ave, Evanston, (847) 604-0913

Queer Beat Science Dance Party Ethnically & 'genderistically' all-inclusive! Resident queer DJs Bathsheba & Gigglebyte spin hip-hop, drum-n-bass, R&B & house music. 2nd & 4th Suns 10p, $2 don. Twilight, 1924 W Division. (773) 342-4633.

Rainbow Families Family Health Seminar @ Howard Brown 3-5p. (630) 585-3920.

Star Gaze Trish Alexander Jazz Trio. (773) 561-7363.

Monday, March 1

Autonomous Zone Kathy Kelly (fr Voices of the Wilderness) speaks *against* sanctions on Iraq this week, (773) 252-6019. AND Anarchist Study Grp discusses LGBT-quer lib wrtgs, 7p @ A-Zone, 2012 W Chicago, (773) 338-9624.

DuSable Museum Educational Cinema Series Mar 1-31: Mon-Fri: 10:30a *There Are No Children Here*, 12:30p *Safire & the Slave Girl*, 2:30p *Four Women*; Sundays 12:30p *Mz. Medusa*, 2:30p *Dreadlocks & the 3 Bears*, 3:30p *Warriors of the Rainbow*. Free w/ museum admit @ 740 E 56th Pl. Info (773) 947-0600, x336.

Horizons Group Art Therapy begins in Mar, w/ Debra Despit, LCSW. Details (773) 472-6469.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project holistic Stop Smoking Grp for lesbian & non-lesb women, (773) 561-4662.

Roseland Community Hospital discount mammogrphy exams thru March, for Women's History Month @ RCH, 45 W 111th; Monterey Health Assoc, 1701 W Monterey; & West Pullman Med Center, 12251 S. Halsted. (773) 995-3052.

Tuesday, March 2

WTTW Channel 11 PBS *In the Life:* "Black & Gay in the Age of AIDS," w/ Chicago focus incl BEHIV & a performance by *A Real Read*–Chi's own Af-Am ensemble using humor, drama & dance to address gay issues & HIV/AIDS prevention in community; also "Bisexuality 101" looks @ issues & misconceptions separating bis fr both straights & gays; "Transgendered musicians" fr jazz to classical to heavy metal; Wisc US Rep & 1st openly gay non-incumbent ever elected, "Tammy Baldwin goes to Washington"; "Stop Kiss" looks @ rivetting new Public Theater (NY) play; "Crossing Lines" re lesbigay inclusion in ethnic parades; and introducing a new series, "out artists SPEAK OUT"–one-minute segments fr Kate Clinton, Quentin Crisp, & Pamela Sneed. 11p.

Wed., March 3

Dignity/Chicago Lenten Soup Supper, disc of Deepak Chopra's "7Spiritual Laws of Success." 7p, rsvp requ. Details (773) 296-0780

Guild Complex "Poets Across the Generations IV" features Chet Long & Chris Stewart plus screening rare video w/ Haki Madhubuti & Chet Long; Quraysh Ali Lansana hosts. 7:30p, $7, $5 st/sr (no open mic). @ Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. Info (773) 296-1268, x26.

LINKS Pride Youth Prog center for sexual minority youth seeks input on what services north suburban young gay adults want (ages 18-23). Focus/discussion grps 7:30-9p @ Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge, Evanston, IL. (847) 441-9880.

Thursday, March 4

Affinity Healthy Women series 7p @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). (312) 409-7609.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America meets 7p @ Ann Sather's 929 Belmont. (773) 752-0058

Radical Faeries of Chi March Hare's Feast of Fools Cabaret, Fausto Fernos hosts evening of music, dance, poetry, witchcraft, communism & all-rnd anti-sociality, w/ Jennifer Trowbridge, Selene Carter, Marianna Buchwald, BRenda CArdnas, Asimina Chremos & Aunt Wilma as Voice of the Crystal Skull. 9p, $5 don, free pkg in rear. @ Big Chicks, 5024 N Sheridan. (773) 784-3397.

Friday, March 5

Affinity Financial Freedom wkshop by D Lisa Powell 7-9p, $10 @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). (312) 409-7609.

UIC PRIDE & Office of Women's Affairs co-host "gurrls nite out one" w/ The Prescriptions pop-punk band, 8p, free @ Cornucopia, CCC. Info (312) 996-4424.

Saturday, March 6

5th Chicago Intl Women's Day Conf "Building a Global Women's Movement" 9a-3p @ Chicago-Kent College of Law, IIT, 565 W Adams. Details Melinda (773) 278-6706

10th International Women's Day Benefit Dance 1999 Sisters around the world celebrate–in Chi, w/ DJ Sheron, dancing, appetizers, cash bar,

more detailed calendar listings in Nightlines, and online www.suba.com/~outlines/

craft bazaar. 8p-2a, $20adv/$25door Congress Hotel, the Great Hall, 520 S Michigan. (773) 509-6881.

DuSable Museum *Princess Tam Tam* (1935, 77"), starring Josephine Baker; shot ptly in Tunisia; French w/ English subtitles. 2p, (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois natl grassroots LGBT equal rights campaign March 21-27, organized here by IL Federation for Human Rights: today, a pre-event, "Bisexuals for pre-EBAH" Kick-off Dinner, (312) 458-0983.

Horizons Community Services "106. Are Plastic Pecs the Answer? Sexuality for Gay Men: Is there too much focus on the physical?" for men only. 10a-noon, $8, (773) 472-6469.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children a dynamic duo, Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie. 7:30p @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster. (312) 409-0276.

Unison Lesbian & Gay Singers & Aria "Twixt Heaven & Hell" spiritual spring concert, (773) 404-9242.

WTTW Channel 11 PBS "BeeGees: 1 Nite Only" 8-10p.

Sunday, March 7

Big Chicks 3rd Customer Potluck Dinner. (773) 728-5511.

MACT-Chicago (Men of All Colors Together) potluck brunch on north side, spec gues Ofcr Mike Perdue Noon-4p, $5. (773) 989-8072.

Sister Sense m'ly open mic for women fr all walks of life, 7p @ Mad Bar, 1640 N Damen, (773) 227-2277.

Women & Children First Artemis Singers perform 4p. @ 5233 N Clark.

Monday, March 8

DuSable Museum "The Harriet Tubman Children Theater Series" thru Wed, 10a-noon, (773) 947-0600, x336.

International Women's Day Building a Global Women's Movement: March & Rally noon today @ Federal Bldg, 220 S. Dearborn, info (773) 866-8181.

Tuesday, March 9

Northeastern Ill University Women's Music Day for Intl Women's Day: 5500 N St Louis (773) 794-3042.

UIC PRIDE & Office of Women's Affairs co-host Robyn Ochs, EdM, lecture, "Bisexuality, Feminism, Men & Me" 2-3:15p, free; aND Ochs-led wkshop, "Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals: A dialogue across difference, 6-7:30p, free. BOTH @ Rathskellar, SRC. Info (312) 996-4424.

Thursday, March 11

Affinity Lez Chat–topic, Basic Massage & Sexual Play, w/ Pat McComb, 7p @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). Info/rsvp (312) 409-7609.

Women & Children First 5 mmbrs of Chi Women's Liberation Union–described in new *Feminist Memoirs: The CWLU c. 1969-1976*– Diane Horwitz, Estelle Carol, Sue Davenport, Jenny Knauss & Micki Leaner form panel; moderator Paula Walowitz interv vs & promotes dialogue/disc. 7:30p. @ 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Saturday, March 13

Arie Crown Theatre Gladys Knight, The Temptations

Balm In Gilead (NY-based HIV/AIDS org.) Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, thru Mar 13. 888-225-6243; www.balmingilead.org.

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays general mtg 10a-noon, (312) 409-4917.

Chi Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal "Music for Mumia" fundraiser to help free Philly journalist/activist & former Black Panther sentenced to death after being shot by/allegedly shooting a Philly cop. Performers incl Ernest Dawkins, David Boykin, All NAtural, Black Earth Trio, Sister Tambourine; silent auction, raffle & adbook. 8p, @ 31 E Balbo. (773) 204-0686.

DuSable Museum *The Women of Brewster Place* (1989, 180"), starring Oprah, Jackee Harry & Cicely Tyson; dir by Donna Deitch (*Deserts Hearts*). 2p, $3. (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois "Gay & Lesbian Alliance of Decatur Monthly Social," 7:30p in Decatur, IL; Ellen Meyers & Alicia Obando speak on HB474 & EBAH. (217) 422-3277

Horizons Community Services Center annual Human First Gala! Human 1st Awd s to late Andrew Boxer PhD, Rev Gregory Dell, Vernita Gray. Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom. (773) 472-6469, x222. **AND** "The Real Chat Rm" Sat discussion series: today, "107. Breaking the U-Haul Cycle: Can Women Just Date?" for women only. 10a-noon, $8, pre-reg requ. @ 961 W Montana. Info/rsvp (773) 472-6469.

UIC PRIDE & Office of Women's Affairs co-host "gurrls nite out two" w/ drummer Big Smith & singer/guitarist Melissa Ferrick (of Lilith Fair fame), 8-10p, free @ Agape House, 1046 W Polk St. Info (312) 996-4424.

Sunday, March 14

South Suburban Sisters "Interested in mtg yr lesbian neighbors? Grp now forming, Info Linda (708) 460-3202.

Wed., March 17

DuSable Museum *Mixing Nia*, 7:30p, $6; (773) 947-0600, x336.

Thursday, March 18

The Fabulous Lypsinka Show! 8p @ Park West, (312) 559-1212.

Friday, March 19

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois natl grassroots LGBT equal rights campaign March 21-27, organized here by IL Federation for Human Rights: today, pre-events: "Pre-EBAH Kickoff Rally @ Daley Center Plaza" noon-1p (NGLTF's Kerry Lobel, Mary Morten, Rick Garcia *et al* speak, Windy City Perf Arts & Church of Open Door choral concert, GLBVA vets' wreath-laying), (773) 477-7173; AND "Community-Wide Happy Hour" 5:30-? @ SPIN, 800 W Belmont(co-sponsors CPNA, G&L Chamber of Commerce, Chi Gay & Lesb Bldg & Trade Pros, LesBiGay Radio), David Kulawiak (847) 869-7753 or (773) 545-3800

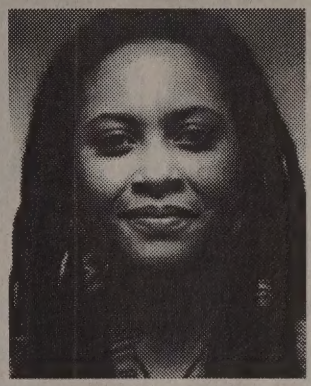
Women in the Director's Chair 18th Intl Film & Video Festival thru Mar 28, such progs as "Homegirls" (Chi-area artists), "Dyke Night," & "Youth-Made Videas"; this yr specially highlights Latina film/videomakers, plus important body of wk abt human rights campaigns fr women's prisons of Calif to legacy of Pinochet in Chile. Venues HotHouse, SAI Film Center (773) 281-4988.

WTTW Channel 11 "The Puerto Ricans: Our American Story" 8p.

Saturday, March 20

Affinity Forty Plus meets 4-6p @ 5650 S Woodlawn (312) 409-7609.

Bailiwick Arts Center & A Real Read, Chi's Af-Am lesbigaytrans performance ensemble, "All Out: A Festival of Black Gay & Lesbian Plays" by Dr Shirlene Holmes. Today: *A Lady & A Woman*



Ubaka Hill March 27 at Mountain Moving, and also see March 27-28 for drumming workshops.

chronicles the love affair of 2 Af-Am women in a small Southern town in the 1890s–Miss Flora Devine is an innkeeper, healer & midwife; Biddie Higgins is an itinerant butcher. A humorous & moving drama in 2 acts, dir by Mary Morten; w/ Ronda Bedgood & Catherine May. Today & Apr 3, 3p; Sun Mar 28 & Apr 11, 7p. 1229 W. Belmont. (773) 883-1090.

DuSable Museum *The Long Walk Home* (1989, 95"), starring Whoopi Goldberg. 2p, $3. @ 740 E 56th Pl. Info (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois today, pre-event in Springfield, IL, 6-9p covered dish potluck followed by prog on participating in Lobby Day @ State Capitol. @ Faith Eternal MCC, 304 W Allen, Springfield; hosted by Bro-to-Bro (B2B) & Springfield Area Lesbian Outreach (SALO), (217) 525-GAYS.

Horizons "The Real Chat Rm" Sat discussion series: today, "108. What's It All Abt? Spirituality" (773) 472-6469.

Howard Brown Health Centers & Harambee Wellness Center Volunteer Training 1515 E 52nd Pl. Dwayne (773) 752-7867

Johnathan Blackwell & Club Voltage Prods "Le Session" Lambda's own Israel Wright does photo shoot, works these super-erotic male models; music, surprise legendary House DJ, food/drink. 9p, $25adv, $35door. @ 1115 W Lake, 2nd fl. (773) 651-0583.

n~trigue prods grand opening of newest addit to metro lesbian lifestyle! Hosts Chef Tania & Les Femmes Amies (ex-*Paris Noir*) offer 2-for-1 cover b4 11p, fabulous buffet, free raffle (cash prize), dinner/dancing. 9p-3a, $5 cover, 21+ valet pkg Uncle Tannous Restaurant, 2626 N Halsted. (773) 333-9725.

Sunday, March 21

Bailiwick Arts Center & A Real Read, "All Out: A Festival of Black Gay & Lesbian Plays" by Dr Shirlene Holmes. Today: tale of a bond betw a gay black & his best friend, an institutionalized straight woman, *Tray & Deborah* (dir Terry Cullers; w/ Christopher McMorris & Shannon Sudduth); the beach-blanket dream of a physically challenged black gay, *A Little Thing Abt A Body* (dir Terry Cullers; w/ Derrick Anthony) and th' bawdy sistah's toast story, *Peaches* (dir Mary Morten; w/ Shannon Sudduth). Today & Apr 4, 7p; Sat Mar 27 & Apr 10, 3p. @ 1229 W. Belmont. Tix/details (773) 883-1090.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois Dignity hosts Educational Prog 6p, Catholic Mass 7p, reception following, all focused on EBAH theme. 6-9p @ Broadway United Methodist, 3344 N B'wy. Details Joe Flint (773) 296-0780.

Sidetrack "The Ultimate Oscar Party" to benefit AIDS Alternative Health Proj & NAMES Proj Chi; (773) 561-2800, x11.

Monday, March 22

WTTW Channel 11 "Great Performances: Dance in Americva: A Hymn for Alvin Ailey" Judith Jamison choreographed this legacy/tribute to Ailey, her trailblazing predecessor now an Af-Am & dance world legend. 9p. AND "Shaker Heights: the Struggle for Integration" 11p.

Wed., March 24

DuSable Museum Triple Feature Nite! incl *Black Women Directors, Toni Morrison: Profile of a Writer,* & *Black Women in Films*; discussion follows, 7:30p, $6 (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois Rally and Lobby Day for Passage of HB474 to amend IL Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation. Buses depart Chicago 7a from IL Federation office, 3444 N Halsted. (773) 477-7173.

Thursday, March 25

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois (773) 477-7173 for event info.

Friday, March 26

Howard Brown Health Center "Reflections in the Mirror: Transference & Countertransference Issues in Therapies w/ Lesbian & Gay Clients," 2-4p, (773) 388-8904.

Roseland Community Hospital 75th Anniv black-tie Community Awards Dinner-Dance; WGN-TV's Merri Dee hosts; Hyatt Regency/McCormick.

Saturday, March 27

Affinity Ubaka Hill Drumming Wkshop, sliding fee, (312) 409-7609.

DuSable Museum *A Woman Called Moses* (1978, 200"), story of Harriet Ross Tubman, starring Cicely Tyson in "brilliant" historical portrayal. 2p, $3. @ 740 E 56th Pl. (773) 947-0600, x336.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children drummer Ubaka Hill, 7:30p @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster; (312) 409-0276. (Chem-free space; no boys over 2; call ahead for ASL interp.) Hill will also offer 2 drumming wkshops: sign-up/info Toni Jr (773) 769-9009.

Sunday, March 28

Kindred Hearts Ubaka Hill Drumming Wkshop @ 2214 Ridge Ave, Evanston, IL. Details Toni Jr (773) 769-9009.

Tuesday, March 30

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois reg monthly mtg, GLSEN-Chicago mmbrs write "Equality Begins @ Home AND AT SCHOOL Action Plans," personal goal-oriented commitments to bring EBAH msg to local school bds. 7-9p @ Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N Lincoln, details Matthew Stuczynski (773) 907-9142; email stuczynm@nttc.org.

WTTW Channel 11 PBS presents "Facing the Truth w/ Bill Moyers" on South Africa's Truth & Reconciliation Commission 9-11p.

Wed., March 31

DuSable Museum *Alma's Rainbow* (dir Ayoka Chenzira), 7:30p, $6 @ 740 E 56th Pl. (773) 947-0600, x336.

VOLUNTEER
HELP WANTED

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in our community and to meet other people. We need your help in the following areas:

▼ ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ▼
daytime or evenings, we need all types of help.
▼ SPECIAL EVENTS ▼
Human First Gala, Pride Dance '99, Bar Nights, Have fun and be seen by thousands!

▼ ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT
▼ LESBIAN & GAY HELPLINE
▼ OLDER ADULT PROGRAM
▼ PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES
▼ YOUTH SERVICES

Program volunteers receive special training. Start the process now!

Interested? Have questions? Ready to start? Call Amelia Lopez at (773) 472-6469, ext. 222

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES
Chicago's Lesbian & Gay Community Center

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE

Ubaka Hill

Saturday, March 27:
Ubaka Hill

An extraordinary drummer, Ubaka will bring down the house. In addition to appearing in concert, she will also hold 2 drumming workshops. If interested in signing up for one of the drumming workshops, please contact Toni Jr. at 773-769-9009 or at ToniAJr@aol.com.

ALSO: **March 6,** don't miss the return of Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie.

1650 West Foster
Ebenezer Lutheran Church
Women & Children Only. Suggested Donation. 312-409-0276

Theatre

Previews/Opening Nights
*** Gay/les/bi/queer/trans content/interest

Feb 24/25: **Genesis: The Continuing Story** (opens Feb 24) beginning w/ stories of Joseph in rotating repertory w/ musician Michael Miles' one-person show **The Magic Banjo** 773 878-9761

Feb 26: Slaughter City Unflinchingly inspects working conditions and conditions of the soul in a not-fictitious-enough slaughterhouse, asks whether the 20th century labor union movement actually improved conditions or spun into the unions' own interests, not worker rights Theatre Sch, Depaul U. 312 922-1999

Feb 27: **Ev'ry Time I feel the Spirit** by David Barr Staged reading and discussion. First African American singer to appear at the Metropolitan Opera, in 1939 acclaimed contralto Marian Anderson was a national symbol of Civil Rights when she was denied the right to sing in Constitutional Hall because of her race, Chicago Dramatists 312 633-0630

Mar 3: **Tales of Assimilation and Segregation** Struggles, choices, circumstances that create sense of belonging in a community. Stories on Stage w WBEZ and Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago 312 397-4010

Mar 4: **"excuse me..."** Conceived, written, directed by Sabrina Harper. First encounters leading to lifelong friendships, just anecdotes, just a bitter taste in the mouth, or just a dark memory. Annoyance Th 773 728-4111

Mar 7: **The Grandma Tree** winner of the Theodore Ward African-American Playwriting Contest. Remembering the traditions that matter, an old woman instills pride and belonging thru ritual. Columbia Coll. 72 E 11th 312 663-1600

*** *Mar 11:* **Bluebeard** Ludicrous, sexually charged comedy; a mad scientist's plot to twist science and nature by the creation of a third human genital. His island is littered w/ sexual misfits, all botched experiments. Author Charles Ludlan died of AIDS related pneumonia at 44. Victory Gardens thru April 17. 773 871-3000

*** *Mar 12:* **The New Show** AHA!'s satirical look at politics, sexuality, and pre-millennium life. Sketch and improvisation create Pinky the morbidly obese hamster, bitchy Queens and Helen Beauchamps, the smart-shopping lady. Peek into the future with gender-bending super-heros. Comedy, suspense, music, sexual tension and relief. The gay and lesbian troupe for everyone. AHA features Michael Hampton, Abby McEnerny, Todd Milliner, Mary Buckley, and Jamie Cutbirth, directed by M.T. Cozzola, Thru April 17Bailiwick 773 883-1090

March 13: **The Artists Formally Known as Oui Be Negroes**, new social political satire mixing classic sketch comedy, long form improvisation by African American Improvisational/sketch comedy group responsible for *All Coons Look Alike to Me.* New Turnaround Th, 773 274-4563

Mar 15: **Oo-Bla-Dee** World premiere of Regina Taylor's work. Saxophone/trumpet player travels to St. Louis to join Evelyn Water and the Diviners, an all black, all female Bebop band. Trouble is, no one told Evelyn and she doesn't like surprises. Captures the lives of black women jazz musicians, struggling to define roles in music, loves, America. Thru April 17 Goodman 312 443-3800

In Performance

The Abesha Conspiracy Multimedia work tells of Joseph, a newly married Afrikan-American man, on first trip to Afrika. Thinking he's ready to experience "Mother Land", gets rude awakening on difference between the Afrika in his mind and the one before him. Ma'at Production Association of Afrikan Centered Th, Victory Gardens Studio 773 324-0757

Blues Like black music which provides its inspiration, blues is smoldering, passionate celebration of beauty, richness, fragility of extraordinary moments in ordinary lives. UIC 312 996-2939

Chicago's Golden Soul Musical celebration of producers, songwriters, artists who propelled Chicago 60s-70s soul music, recording industry here into national fame. Black Ensemble open run 773 769-4451

*** **Danny Bouncing** A lovestruck LA playwright, Danny tries to win back his girlfriend despite slightly illegal diversions created by his out-of-control, out-of-work actor friends, including prank instigating gay friend Doug. Thru Feb 28 Victory Gardens 773 871-3000

Elvis Presley was a Black Man Rock 'n Roll extravaganza w/ a story untold until now.Directed and choreographed by Jackie Taylor, thru March 28, Black Ensemble Th 773 769-4451

Fortunes of the Moor Othello's secretly born son, custody battle between his African family and the Venetians. Thru Feb 28. ETA Creative Arts Foundation, Inc, 773 752-3955

** **How I Learned to Drive** Lesbian playwright Paula Vogel's '98 Pulitzer winning sympathetic portrayal of young woman remembering uncle whose driving instruction led to a darker relationship. Thru March 7, Northlight 847 673-6300

Train is Comin' Based on story of founding of Fisk Jubilee Singers in 1800s. Thru April 18 Chicago Th Co, Parkway Playhouse, 500 E 67th St 773 493-5360

Wang Dang Doodle (The Life Story of KoKo Taylor—Queen of the Blues) Her life, history of women in Blues. Black ensemble theater's premiere production starring Queen Roy as Koko Taylor,Rick Stone, Linda Lamar, Gary Wilson. Black Ensemble Th, 773 769-4451

*** ***You Are Not Here*** Neo Mondo Solo '99 performance series featuring Neo-Futurist Women. Rachel Claff, *Why2K*; Anita Loomis, *Travel F(r)ictions*; Stephanie Shaw, *A Proper Dragon*; Diana Slickman, *Falling.* 773 275-5255

DANCE

*** *Mar 10:* **Alvin Ailey American Dance Th** thru Mar 14 Auditorium Th, 312 902-1500

Mar 19: **Muntu Dance Th** *Life Moves: A Tribute to Alyo* Dance salute to founding artistic director, part of the '99 Spring Festival of Dance 773 602-1135

ART/PHOTO

African American Cultural Center Dell Washington, paintings. Henry Jones *On the Edge,* 312 996-9549

*** **Aldo Castillo Gallery** *The Visible Soul Series* digital photos by Helena Chapellin Wilson of Venezuela 233 W Huron 312 337-2536

Art Institute of Chicago *Masterpieces from Central Africa: Selections from the Belgian Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren,* 312 443-3600

The Dusable Museum of African American History New: Sundays Free.Also *Harold Washington In Office,* permanent exhibition, w/ composite office setting; memorabilia; personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th and Cottage Grove Ave 773 947-0600

Time & Life Bldg Rebecca Childers Caleel new sculptures including *Pharaoh Akhenaten* bas-relief bronze w/ silver nitrate patina thru April. 630 887-1919

Woman Made Gallery *Conflict/Resolution* fourteen female, male artists in all media. 1900 S Prairie 312 328-0038

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS

UNITY V

Unity V is the annual community conference for lesbigay/trans people of African descent in Chicago and the Midwest. Unity V allows the Black lesbigay community and our allies the opportunity to examine the events and important life issues that affect us. We'll also hear dynamic and powerful nationally known speakers assess the state of affairs for lesbigay/trans people of African decent.

...And Still We Rise: Visions Toward Our Future

Friday, April 16
Saturday, April 17
and
Sunday, April 18, 1999

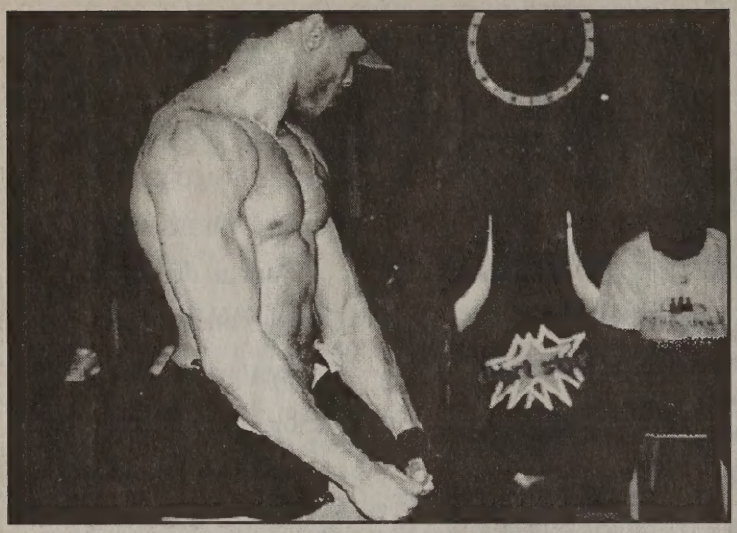
HYATT REGENCY
McCORMICK PLACE
in Chicago

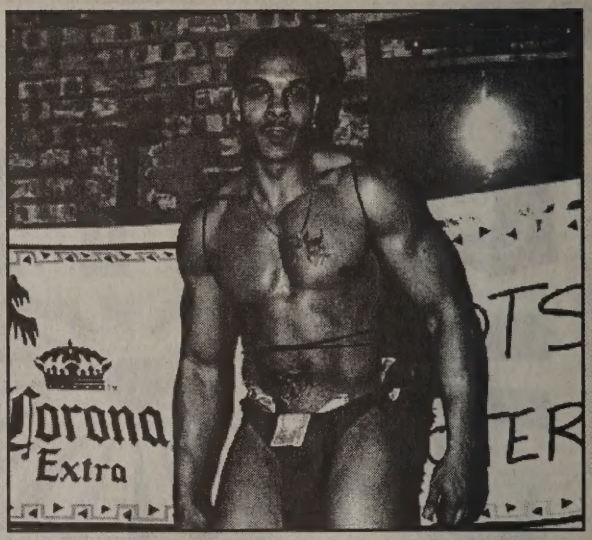
For Organization Information and Registration, phone 312-409-4917

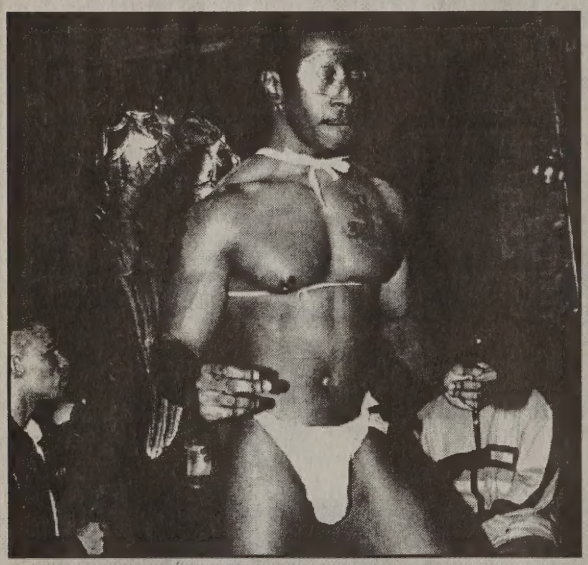
Barbara Smith,
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

OTHER KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

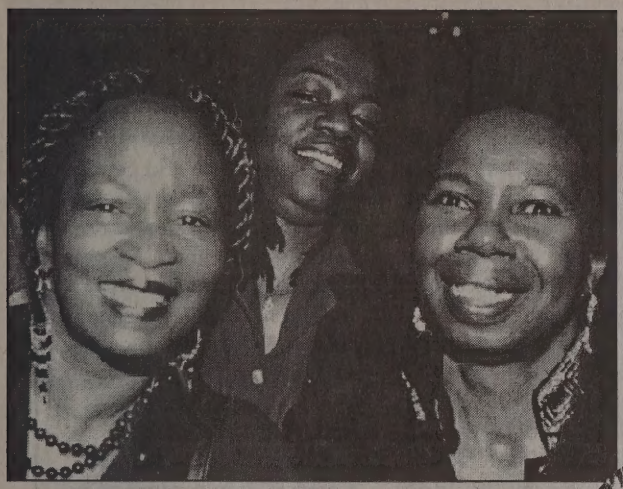
CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS, PO Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181







A page for the guys ... top left from The Vix. Top right and middle pics from the Rails. BELOW: from Cellblock's recent leather weekend. Photos by Israel Wright



Pat's 50th

Chicago party girl extraordinaire Pat McCombs celebrated her 50th birthday in style, and hundreds of folks turned out for the affair. Pat is pictured CENTER, surrounded by just a few of the people partying in high style. Photos by Israel Wright

Author bell hooks on Living and Writing as a Strong Black woman

by Samantha R. Mattox

Feminist writer bell hooks appeared before more than 1,000 people to sign her new book, *Remembered Rapture: A Writer at Work* Jan. 27 at Harold Washington library. The auditorium at the library held 385. The remaining audience watched her via a television in another room.

Remembered Rapture addresses how race and gender shape the work of a writer. hooks, the author of 17 books, is a professor of English at the City College of New York. She tackled the issues of homophobia, sexism, drugs, and AIDS in the Black community, from questions asked by audience members. Some of hooks' most notable works are *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*, her first book, and *Bone Black*, a confessional work about her childhood.

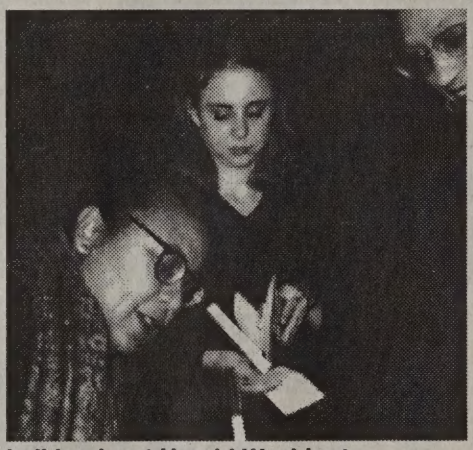
She said her critics accuse her of writing the same books over and over again, but she responded that we must remember the time when Black voices were rarely present in literature. "People would get in my face and say, 'Why do you write so much?'"

hooks answered the question in her preface: "I respond, 'Why do you write so much Virginia Woolf?'" Woolf established herself as a modern British fiction writer during the late-Victorian era when there were few women novelists. She wrote *A Room of One's Own*, which dealt with the needs and rights of white women.

"Virginia Woolf was not able to imagine Black women coming into writing naturally," hooks stated. She added that Black women have come to writing through the suffering of our ancestors.

"I was raised in a world where many of the Black men and women around me couldn't read and write," she said.

Writing provided hooks with the ability to reach people across race and different paths in life. She uses storytelling to accomplish this. "A personal narrative," she said, "allows them a point of intrigue."



bell hooks at Harold Washington Library, signing her new book. Photo by Samantha Mattox.

hooks also interconnects spirituality and a sense of responsibility to the Black community in her writing: "I am deeply concerned about the collective healing of Black people."

This author uses personal narratives to examine broader issues in the Black community, however, she admits that this has changed her relationship with her family. Her mother said: "I guess I can't say too much or she will be writing about it in her book."

hooks answered questions from the audience dealing with her works as well as other writers' works and social issues. When asked about Angela Davis' recent book *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*, hooks admits that she was not moved by the analysis in the book, but she did feel that the lyrics cited were interesting.

A Black female university professor asked hooks for advice about how to avoid the exhaustion of battling conservative bureaucracies of college administrators. hooks answered, "Universities, as by their natures, are conservative." She also said that Black universities are just as conservative as white universities.

She was also asked questions about her two wider-read books, *Bone Black* and *Ain't I a Woman*. In *Bone Black*, hooks looked at "language as a body of suffering." She said, "Literature does not function as a healing place . ... When I set out to write, I don't intend this book to be healing."

Ain't I a Woman, she said, challenged her to where she needed to go. Nevertheless, hooks is still awed by the messages in the book. "Sometimes I read a paragraph, and I'm still moved," she told the audience.

Despite some members of the Black community's reluctance to embrace feminism, hooks said that she receives positive letters from Black males who are interested in stopping sexism in the Black community. She even hopes that a "revitalized feminist movement" will reach out toward teenage boys. "Boys are hungry about masculinity that will nourish them in deep and meaningful ways."

To illustrate the harmful effects of sexism and gender roles, hooks used the example of her nephew. She said he hardly speaks and as he gets older he will hardly show emotions. This is perceived as masculine behavior by society.

hooks found the book *Nappy Hair* by Carolivia Herron inappropriate for Black children because of its signifying message. "Signifying also has a dimension of shaming in it, and shaming has a way of being dramatic." She said that *Nappy Hair* was not a "Black liberatory book."

In the end of the book, the young female protagonist triumphs over those who humiliate her because of her looks. "We are not always triumphant," hooks said. Painful experiences in our childhood take a lifetime to recover from, she said.

On the subject of homophobia, hooks said that she noticed a "deep, profound homophobic discourse" among her nieces and nephews. Her nephew did not want to say that his best friend was his best buddy because he did not want to be seen as gay.

hooks used this discourse to introduce the discussion of AIDS. hooks said that Black gay men are afraid to tell their families they are gay because of the stigma of homosexuality. She said that this silence leads to the continual rate of HIV infection in the community.

She also discussed the treatment of children in our society. She said that our society is too "heavy handed" in disciplining children and that we should learn to discipline children in non-physical ways. hooks even said the

children's books inaccurately depict Black children as having a hard life. "Little children's faces start looking old and tired," she remarked about the images of Black children. hooks recommended children stories written by Maya Angelou and Nikki Giovanni for positive images of Black children.

When asked about her views on capitalism, hooks said, "I don't know about capitalism but greed is going strong." She stated that poverty takes on a worse dimension with drug addiction. She cites greed as the main source of drug addiction in a capitalist society and that greed is the genocide of drug users.

hooks also said that retired Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan is an icon of capitalism who portrays the attitude of "I can't never get enough." Jordan, she said, is a symbol of global capitalism. Although capitalism is a source of oppression for Black people, she stated, "Black people have been very supportive of capitalism."

hooks also said that leaders such as Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam are not only pro-capitalism, but pro-patriarchy, which promotes male-headed households and denounces homosexuality. She said that if white people really feared him, he wouldn't be alive. hooks also said that his ideas have more commonality with conservatives than with her ideas.

Even one of the "divas" of feminism has writer's block occasionally. One of the best things to do with writer's block is to "ease up some," she said. She said that easing up unleashes creative powers.

"We've got to have that same type of tenderness in writing," she said.

hooks interconnects a link with her ancestor's spirit in her writing—bell hooks was her grandmother's name. hooks' real name is Gloria Jean Watkins. She uses bell hooks in lower case to take away the intimidation that prestigious names bring.

hooks believe that all good writing comes from a still place.

"Be still so you can come correct," hooks stated.

Want to be a writer? Want to speak out about being a Black Woman or Black Man?

BLACKlines is featuring two very special issues this year.

May is our "Women's Issue" and July is our "Men's Issue"

Write about how it feels to be a Black Lesbian, a Black Gay Man, a Transgendered man or woman, a Bisexual ... whatever comes from your heart.

Suggested topics: HIV and AIDS;
Friendships between lesbians and gay men;
Transgender Issues;
Racism in the Gay Community;
Sexism;
Interracial Relationships;
Political Activism;
Substance Abuse;
Dating in Chicago;
Longterm relationships;
Finding a Man/Finding a Woman;
Family Values;
Interracial Friendships;
and MUCH MORE!

Deadline: March 30 for women's issue
May 15 for men's issue. Length: 500-800 words
Call LaJaunessee (773) 871-7610 to let her know you will be submitting articles.
Types of submissions: Columns, News articles, Interviews, Poetry, Cartoons, Art or Photos
How to submit: FAX (773) 871-7609; e-mail outlines@suba.com; or BLACKlines, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657.
Make sure to include your full name, address and phone.
All published pieces will be paid for.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Underground Techniques

DJ Harry T

Taking the time to reflect how long I've been contributing to this magazine, I have been truly blessed to write and nurture my creative skills, meet new and exciting people and have someone say "I read your article and enjoyed it!"

So I say Thanks to you, the readers of this magazine who continue to support our creative expressions to entertain and educate our community. Thank you to Tracy Baim for the existence of this publication. Thank you K.L. Glover and the entire Word Rising ensemble for embracing my skills and talent and continuing to help me grow as a proud individual. Thanks also to Fredrick Dunson, Jano, J And Ralphi Rosario for your continuing support as well.

Enough of the shout outs and on to the grooves that makes us move. The Twisted camp is on full tilt, ready to drop the bomb with the 12' release of "Body" and the single/album "Star" by the Funky Green Dogs. The tracks offer some tasty offerings such as: "Can't Help It," "Tomorrow," and "Discotek." Be sure to add this to your groove collective. Danny Tenaglia will also be releasing his third single Feb. 23, "Turn Me On," featuring the hot vocals of Liz Torrez. That's all I am able to uncover on the label scene at this time. Next feature will be more detailed and focus on great CD compilations.

DJ Harry T Top 5

1. Feel You (Mark Grant rx) - Julius Papp & Dave Warrin
2. Removable Tattoo - Sade
3. Viva Fiasco - Johnny Fiasco
4. Ooh, I love It (Love Break) (Full Intention rx) - Salsoul Orchestra
5. Body (Club 69 rx) - Funky Green Dogs

Hear Again

by Jano

All of this time, I thought I kind of understood how Native Americans felt about people appropriating their culture and rewriting their histories. I've always thought the emblem for the Blackhawks hockey team looked majestic but out of respect of Native Americans, I've never purchased Blackhawks teamwear.

One day I was surfing the radio and

landed on what I thought was WVAZ or V-103. Then a voice came on and informed me that it was 103.5, Jammin' Oldies. My body immediately had a reaction to that word, *Oldies,* and it wasn't good. I continued to listen, though, as they cranked out hit after hit. Then I waited for the live dialogue. The false cadence the radio personality spoke in said *I may or mat be African-American, but I most certainly try not to give it away on radio.* Maybe I'm being a little too harsh, allow me to back up.

We in Chicago, me in particular, are very possessive of Black Radio. When I travel to other cities, one of the first things I look for is a radio station that plays music by African-American artists, informs me of where my people will be congregating that weekend, plus a bit of chit-chat to help clue me in on their social/political climate. African-American radio has been a *virtual* community since we were *colored* and it was called *race music* by whites in the industry.

The kicker is WUBT (Jammin' Oldies 103.5) is owned by the same station (Chancellor Media Corp.) that owns V-103 and WGCI. There are very few African-American owned stations left. Although, 103.5 does play hits, you probably will never hear a song by the Isley Brothers, Roy Ayers, Cameo (not *those* kind of hits), it's what *they* say hits are (or those more easily identified by their target audience ...).

Listening to 103.5 reminds me of being the only African-American at a party and people keep asking my opinion about Jesse Jackson. It feels like an outstretched hand, to give *them* five, behind some stale joke. It feels like someone watching my every move, logging it, testing it with a marketing firm to see how much it can be resold for on Wall Street. It feels like cultural molestation.

I have gotten used to radio personalities who talk to me, like Herb Kent, Bonnie DeShong and Irene Mojica. I embrace the community calendars that keep me in the know. I like the strolls down memory lane, the music and the history these radio personalities can provide for me, unscripted, because they have been a part of it.

Maybe I shouldn't be so disgusted by Jammin' Oldies, after all, Chancellor Media Corp. is still letting me *have* V-103 and WGCI.

Our music is our history ... and so was our radio.

| soul journal | by j.

| **Common/MeShell/Teena @ Congress Theater** | When I first caught wind of this "hush-hush" event, my reaction was "What?! I'm there!" The mostly Black crowd was refreshing, especially since this wasn't a hip-hop concert. Style included Dress-To-Impress, Why Bother and Where Are We Going, Again? All varieties of sexual orientation were boldly in attendance for an interesting mix. This is what happens when you throw a free concert featuring diverse musical acts, one of them an open lesbian/bisexual. Unfortunately, the too-much-of-a-good-thing element eventually proved true as hordes and hordes of the fabulous (and fabu-less) crammed their way into the aging Congress. There were lines to get into the theater, lines for drinks, lines for the bathrooms (at some point, women began using the men's room). One "entrepreneur" even set up a small table in the men's room to hawk weed. DJ Twilite Tone spun great tunes during band changes, although I would have preferred he play them a little longer than 30 seconds, each. But perhaps the most disappointing thing was the *sound.* Really, without good sound, what good is a concert? I remember seeing Grace Jones at the Congress and she sounded great. But a live mic and DAT is a bit different than a full live band and the sound tech seemed to have a problem getting the mix right for the expansive theater acoustics. This was most evident during MeShell's set, when way more than once the crowd listened to her say "Anhmm mphh dmmg ghh" or *something.* Who knew? | **Les Nubians — *Princesses Nubiennes*** | British and French soul has consistently contributed some great artists in the past two years, many of them "Black." Joining French artists Teri Moïse and Sinclair, are these two sisters from Bordeaux, France with their addictive debut. The back of this CD reads, "Les Nubians mix sultry, jazzy grooves with smooth hip-hop, sprinkled with sampled hints of exotic African influences." I can't describe *Princesses Nubiennes* much better than that, except to say that each track is well-crafted and sung with harmonic beauty (think: Zhané in French). The bass of the first track, "Demain (Jazz)," immediately pulls you into the CD. Other gems include "Makeda," "Sourire" and "Désolée." If you are wary of music not sung in English, this is a great one to break you in. Practically flawless (including the hip-hopped cover of Sade's "Sweetest Taboo"), you owe it to yourself to pick up this release. | **The Roots feat. Erykah Badu — "U Got Me"** | If you haven't seen this video, you will. An imaginative, albeit disturbing, piece transforms a routine shooting in the hood into a memorable meditation, complete with enigmatic Ms. Badu elegantly cooing the chorus even during the brilliant drum n bass metamorphosis and revelation at video's end.

A Real Reads Takes on the Works of Playwright Shirlene Holmes

by Robert Schultz

Shirlene Holmes says her first "pride" play, *A Lady and A Woman*, was "conjured." The play came to her, Holmes explained, and later when she went back to research some details about the piece, which is set in the 1890s, she found that many of the details were authentic. *A Lady and A Woman* is one in a series of Holmes' lavender plays that will be featured in the *All Out Festival* jointly produced by A Real Read and the Bailiwick Arts Center. *A Lady and a Woman* is the working-class love story of Flora Devine, an innkeeper and midwife, and Biddie Higgins, an itinerant butcher. This is the first time a collection of Holmes' gay-oriented work will be performed in a festival setting. Three additional works penned by Holmes, *Tray and Deborah, A Little Thing About A Body*, and *Peaches* will be featured in the series.

After reading an article written by Holmes in the BLACK THEATER NEWS about the difficulty of getting African-American companies to do plays with lesbigay/trans themes, Byron Stewart, co-founder of A Real Read, sought her out. Stewart reviewed nearly a dozen of Holmes' plays before making the selections that will be performed for the festival. Holmes started writing plays while in college when she couldn't get the rights to the play *Zora* by Lawrence Holder. She wanted to perform it during Black History Month, but the piece was in production at the time. In a fit of "piss and vinegar" she wrote a one-woman show about Sojourner Truth. She performed her *Ain't I A Woman* for many years. Holmes is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where she teaches speech, theatre, and African-American studies. Holmes has a doctorate in speech from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, so her appearance in Chicago will be a bit of a homecoming. Holmes is a 1997 recipient of the Nancy Dean Distinguished Playwrighting Award.

"That person who is next to you on the train, or the person who is serving you food," is more interesting to Holmes than the "kings and queens" and hence are the subjects of her plays. Holmes likes to craft characters that audiences can identify with and "cheer on." Holmes enjoys giving a voice to the disenfranchised. The drama of being "Black and female" also feeds into her writing. Holmes, a lesbian, also said, "living lavender" influences "writing lavender." Although she has a body of work that departs from gay themes, it is her "lavender" work that is bringing her notice.

Holmes is currently working on a play based upon the

Holmes

writings left behind by a young Bi-racial Black man who committed suicide while in his 20s. Some of the issues addressed in Holmes other plays include labor justice and incest. Holmes believes that drama is an important way to get audiences to examine the world around them. Mary Morten will direct *A Lady and A Woman*. Ronda Bedgood and Elizabeth V. Shivers will performe.

Tray and Deborah is about the bond between a gay man and a straight woman. Terry Cullers will direct and Christopher McMorris and Shannon Sudduth are featured actors.

Terry Cullers will direct *A Little Thing About A Body*. Derrick Anthony is the featured performer. A disabled Black gay man's dream about involvement with one of the beach's hunks forms the basis of this work.

Mary Morten will also direct *Peaches*. Peaches, featuring Shannon Sudduth, is a bawdy tale about a brazen Black "sista."

A Lady and A Woman will be performed March 20 and April 3 at 3 p.m. The play will also be performed Sunday, March 28 and April 11 at 7 p.m.

Tray and Deborah, A Little Thing About A Body, and *Peaches* will be performed on March 21 and April 4 at 7 p.m. The plays will also be presented March 27 and April 10 at 3 p.m.

For ticket information call 773-883-1090.

'A Real Read' on TV March 2 on WTTW

A Real Read, Chicago's African-American LesBiGayTrans Performance Ensemble, will be on the national gay and lesbian TV show *In The Life*. The program taped A Real Read in Chicago in January. The episode air in Chicago on WTTW-Ch. 11 Tuesday, March 2, 11 p.m. BE-HIV, an Evanston-based HIV and AIDS organization, is also profiled on the episode. Mary Morten, Mayor Daley's liaison to the lesbigay community, is interviewed.

Black Pearls

by Sukie de la Croix

Excerpts from an interview with Chicago drag legend Ebony Carr ...

In the 1960s ...

"I started performing after I won a drag contest at Finnie's Ball. I was a nursing student and I was in JET magazine, and a few other magazines, and one of the fellows who worked at the hospital took it around at work and was showing it, 'Do you know who this is?' Back in those days it was a heavy scrutiny being gay and being a male nurse, and once they find out you're a transvestite or something like that, that made it even worse. So here I am with all these roses and a crown on my head, and I was so embarrassed that I dropped out of nursing school. I couldn't write my mom and dad, who were back in Michigan, that I dropped out. I had to work because I needed the money, I was staying at the Lawson Y ... you can imagine! ... where all the students in those days would stay.

"I went down to Sparrows which was owned by Chuck Renslow and that was a fabulous bar. I won a contest that night, Halloween night, and I asked him if I could be part of a show and he said OK. It was a small show then, Robey Landers hadn't come back to Chicago at that time, and so when Robey came back I was a part of her Hot Pants Revue, with Jackie Knight, Wanda Lust and Virginia Slim. Robey was the one to tell you, 'If you listen to me, follow all of my instructions, you can go anywhere and work.' Which was very very true. I got offers and worked all over the country. On stage I did a lot of Shirley Bassey, I always wanted to be a very sophisticated type of cabaret singer like Eartha Kitt ... I used to do that at the Blue Angel in New York afterwards. Basically, I stuck with Blues, or cabaret songs—which I still do now—very soulful songs; I'm known as Socially Yours Ebony."

A Sparrows ad from The Paper, July 1972.

The Baton ...

"I worked at the Baton, in fact I worked with Felicia when she first started, when the Baton was right on the corner, then she sold it and moved and it became Sundays. It was seedy, but when you have a gay bar and female impersonators, people look for the seediness and that goes with it; the gay thing and entertainment and cabaret, always had to have that element of seediness. That's what the draws were; you would see people in Mercedes, in Lincolns, on bicycles, walking, and those were the people that came, from all walks of life."

Arrested ...

"I've been arrested twice in Chicago. One night at the Chesterfield, and back in those days you had to have two parts of male clothing on and still to this day, no matter how many panty-hose I have on, I still wear men's underwear. First of all they would take you down to harass you, well Afro as being Black Is Beautiful, I'd comb my little hair up and when they told me to take off my wig I still looked like a Black woman. I kept my earrings on and went right on. The police liked me back then, they were never really bad or mean to me, or brutal or anything. Some of the other Queens they would. Maybe because I never got smart with them, I always talked rather intelligently, I never flirted with them or anything like that."

Racism ...

"Early on in the contests, no matter how unattractive and un-effeminate a white guy in a blond wig would be, he was always placed higher than the Black kids or the Puerto Rican kids. And that went on for a long time until the Black is Beautiful thing, when we started getting our Diana Ross' and our Shirley Bassey's, where you had natural women of color that were considered very glamorous."

David's Place ...

"David's Place was the forerunner of Felicia's Baton, and they had gorgeous lighting and we did show productions from Broadway plays. So we put a different edge on the art of female impersonation, not just things you see on TV but we did classical things like *The King And I*."

Pearly Mae ...

"I remember Pearly Mae, in fact I used to go to the Night Life and watch Pearly, and he was one of the foremost Black entertainers on the North Side. He was No. 1, a really big headliner. In the heyday Pearly came first, then we had Cappucine who was really a beauty, she worked for Felicia. Pearly Mae was like myself, we didn't have any augmentation, hormones, silicone, or anything like that, and so the audience could identify with you, because when it all comes off you're a guy like everyone else."

Final message ...

"Tell them Ebony Carr is still alive and kicking ... "

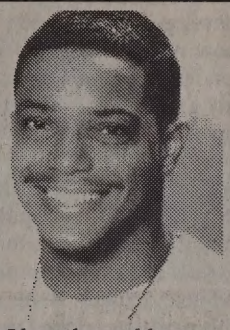
Memory Check: David's Place (5232 N. Sheridan), Sparrows (5220 N. Sheridan), Night Life (933 N. State St.s), Chesterfield (2831 N. Clark).

Send your stories to Sukie de la Croix at BLACKLINES. He also interviews over the phone or by e-mail sukie@wwa.com

COMING OUT OF DARKNESS:

Reflections and Revelations

by Sanford E. Gaylord



It's amazing what you can see when you come out of darkness. When you allow yourself a moment to reflect back on how far you have come in your life. My journey has taught me that life is full of lessons. The rewards are even more profound when you realize that the trials and tribulations of battle are worth it in the long run.

Someone once asked me if I thought my life would be any different if I weren't HIV+; would I have achieved the things that I have thus far in my journey if I never tested positive. My first thought was what a wonderful world it would be without HIV. I then thought that I would probably be dead with the many things that I was doing at the time. Then I remembered what my big brotha Larry once said, "There are no coincidences." I still must say that testing positive for HIV was the best and worst thing to happen, almost 10 years ago at this point.

As a same-gender-loving HIV+ African-American man over 30, I've had to face a great deal of loss in my life, just as many women and other individuals regardless of race or serostatus. There have been times where I have written articles and wondered *"why on earth should I tell people this?"* I must admit, I wondered if anyone was even getting the messages that I was trying to convey. In any journey, our travels will encounter pain, pleasures; sorrows; scars and loss—the feelings are universal. We all are haunted by something at one point or another within our lives.

I have gone inside of myself and come out screaming. In the process, I have been able to heal some of the scars that I was riddled with inside by writing and telling a bit of my journey, this tour of battle with HIV. The light is so bright now that I have learned to love myself and come out of darkness. I have had the pleasure of responding to brotha's and sista's in person and out of state. They told me that they could relate to what I was writing; that I was telling their story too. The letters that I have received from readers have been humbling.

Public recognition for my work by The Chicago Association of Black Journalists last November and notification by the Greater Chicago Committee that I will be the recipient of the Black Kettle (Arts/Journalism) at the 5th Annual Bayard Rustin Awards have been a combination of validation and humbling.

Flashing back, it seems as though it was only yesterday that I wrote "The unwelcome news of Mr. Death, increased my sipping of vodka and sniffing of coke. They became my pastime. Leading me from my pain, my reality, and numbing me into my own slow suicide." Mr. Death for me is HIV. He can also be fear as well as a number of things that keep you from realizing your true potential.

The series of losses that I once endured lead me right back to that slow suicide once upon a time. Fortunately, there have been some very strong women in my life. Christine Perillo was one of the women that I wrote about with my first article that helped me start the healing process. She was my case manager when I came out of out-patient therapy for HIV/Substance related issues, still scared of life. She helped me recover myself as well as discover myself without being under the influence. Over the years, she has been like a mother, a sista, and a true friend throughout my journey with HIV. I am honored to call her my friend.

Being the recipient of such prestigious awards, I thought of what I could possibly write about. I recently came through a dark moment of writer's block after losing my father.

I have gone inside of myself and come out screaming. In the process, I have been able to heal some of the scars that I was riddled with inside by writing and telling a bit of my journey, this tour of battle with HIV.

Having him for such a short time in my life and then only in my third decade of life. True friends will always be there, they told me that all I can do is be true to myself as a writer and allow others to see that there is life after diagnosis if you claim it for yourself. Gaining knowledge and purpose for yourself along with self-love are the greatest weapons against all odds that may befall you. My tour of battle has enabled me to become "Old Wine in a New Bottle."

What has been worrying me are my sista's. Every day, over 7,000 people are infected with HIV. The haunting reality is that almost half of them are women. As HIV runs rampant through our communities, we must realize that the battle for many is not over. This is going to be a very long war that will affect almost every human being on this planet.

My sista's not only have to worry about HIV, they must also worry about Breast and Ovarian cancer. Many sista's who have been the backbone for many people and families are also haunted. Beautiful women, with wonderful wit and elegance, are haunted by trips for yet another chemotherapy treatment.

We can help heal one another by telling our stories and teaching our stories both verbally and in writing. We are all warriors in some form or another waging war to survive on this planet. We don't need to be a tribe of warriors trying to find home when there may not be a home to come home to.

There's still a lot of darkness to get through.

A good friend of mine once said "We are responsible for leaving our communities and the world a better place than we found them. Both in our words and in our deeds." Let's cause a rippling effect of love and knowledge for our people, for our selves.

Ache'

Poetry

I Find You
In A Subtle Search
For Definition,
Carry You Into My Dream.
Hope Whisper Encouragingly
Beside Me,
In My Sleep.
I Capture
Your Moving Sound,
In Awe Of Your Dance.
Your Awareness
Above My Reach.
Wishing It Would Fall
Into My Arms.
Waiting For A Gift
Of Destiny,
The Blessing
Of Purpose,
To Bring Dreams To Life
This Affair
To A Dream.

— Larry Duckett

GURLLLology 101 thru 401 Academic Networking

by Vicky Nabors

I was pleased to hear lots of positive feedback about this column from many sistas who attended Pat McCombs' birthday party. As I stated in my introductory column, I would like this space to focus on issues and experiences of Black lesbians who are either college students or just thinkers, as in, lifetime intellectual and personal growth. My invitation is still open to anyone who would like to submit a short article to share as a guest writer.

THIS COLUMN IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION! Lol. Yep! I'm an Internet nerd. Computers are quickly becoming a strong element in our public and private world. They will soon impact every avenue of our lives, so we better become friends with them. A prime example of this phenomenon is the current Y2K problem where computers can't identify the year 2000; this could affect every household in our country. Change is often frightening and difficult to accept but historically we can see how technological advances have forced our society to comply or lose out. Those who fight the system are now finding themselves left behind in job stability, earning potential, upward mobility, etc. Heck, with the continuous downsizing of corporations, a person can expect to switch jobs several time during their years of employment. This is the primary reason why Black women must prepare themselves to compete, confidently, in the vast job market of our ever-changing technological world. Remember, the equality war is an ongoing battle for Black Americans and women; thus we must arm ourselves. Over the last ten years, I've obtained as many computer skills as my patience and tolerance would allow. My reward basically is

connected to the word 'self-confidence,' thus I am now a product of that in which I speak. Later for that, "she's just a big mouthed woman stereo-typing garbage." It really freaks me out when a college student tells me that she can't do e-mail or use a word processing program, that's not cool, ask someone to show you the way. ASK! Come on yal, get on those computers and conquer them as if your life depended on it.

My guest writer, Yvette, is back to share a campus coming-out experience and the development of her 'gaydar.'

The year was 1993 and I was transferring to a new University because I had had it with my previous school. I was 21 soon to be 22, and wasn't interested in hanging out and partying. After a semester, I met some new friends and joined a sorority. I found it amusing when my sorority sisters and I talked about who was cute, who wasn't, and who was gay. But, I often shied away from the topic of who was gay because I feared the label would fall on me.

There were a few guys on campus that everyone thought was fine and I would say, "He is so GAY." Yep, at that point, I wouldn't think twice about outing a guy, but I would never out a female (probably because I hadn't seen any stereotypical-looking lesbians). I enjoyed feeding into that 6th sense, which I later learned is called 'gaydar' by the lesbian and gay community.

After a year at my new University, I realize that I could no longer suppress my feelings for women. So, I believe that all of the people and experiences that I came across helped me to develop into the person I am now. As I look back upon my Undergrad days, I realize that my gaydar was under-developed and that outing guys wasn't the coolest thing to do. My coming-out experience via my campus life was quite interesting and, of course, today my gaydar has become more refined. Actually, it was due to this newly developed sense that I identified and met a new friend at work. It is good to meet like-minded lesbians to socialize with, but you can't always tell who is in the life and who isn't, so be careful.

Replies to vlnabors@neiu.edu or Lambda Publications (BLACKLINES), Vicky Nabors, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

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In Dreams

by d.l. sanders

Everyone fantasizes. Some picture money. Others think of love. It is human nature to dream about better things, it is part of human nature to want better out of life, not just for yourself but for your friends, family and the ones you hold dear. Lately I've heard a lot of people put down people's fantasies saying that dreams are foolish, that they are a useless waste of people's minds. They think everyone should remain in reality and relate to life in its true form.

I think those people are missing the point of dreams.

I don't think I would have made it through the last few years of my life without my fantasies. They have cradled me through the good times; they have carried me through the bad times. My dreams have been my lifeboat, when I was tired and could not swim through the murky waters that life consists of. I am so proud of my dreams, because in dreams, I release all the tension that surrounds me everyday, that and a massage from an excellent masseuse.

I have this dream that I walk into a room filled with interesting enough people. I was looking extremely dapper. I am dressed in a pair of Khakis and a black-collared shirt, with half boots. I had just shaved my head, so it was shining, not too brightly mind you. I didn't want to blind anyone. I walk in the room and begin to greet the people I recognize, walking directly for the bar. I had to have my Southern Comfort and 7-Up. The people on the dance floor are swaying to the music. It is overpowering the room. I have my drink in hand and I turn and there he stands. He is about six-feet tall, and he is dressed to kill. His eyes glimmer as he speaks to a beautiful woman standing near an open window. I can not move. I am unable to walk. He turns and his smile brightens up the whole environment.

He looks right at me. I smile back at him. Then he begins to move at me. I turn to see if it was I, or if he was coming for someone behind me. There is no one there, except the bartender. He stops right in front of me, looks me in the eyes and orders a drink. I am crushed. I stand there and my head falls down. Then he begins to strum my pain. He speaks. "So you were looking at me," he says. I turn and he takes my drink, sits it down and leads me to the dance floor. As I lean into him, every ounce of my body is trembling. "Shhh," he says, "you're in my arms now." The voice of Lauryn Hill, to everyone else, was singing, "The sweetest thing I've ever known, was like a kiss on the collarbone. The soft caress of happiness, the way you walk, the style of dress."

I look up in his eyes, after I realize I could not remember what he looked like. The only thing I had was his eyes and his smile, but no clear picture of what he looked like. I could not make out his face, just feel his hands on my back. "Who are you," I ask. He looks down at me and runs his hand over

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Leather Scene

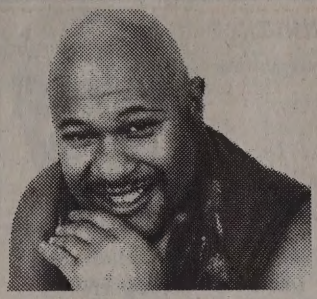
by Cain Berlinger

It is with sadness that we accept the resignation of Andre Marcials as Mr. Ebony Leather 1998 due to personal problems. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

The judges for Mr. Ebony Leather have been chosen and they are: Graylin Thornton, former International Mr. Drummer; Tom Stice, Mr. Southeast Drummer; Ryan Goldner, International Drummer boy; Mufasa, former Mr. Cellblock and IML finalist; Meryl of the NY Noose; Vi Johnson, Pantheon winner and Leather Archives spokesperson, activist and author. Waiting for confirmation is Mr. Baltimore Eagle. Frank Nowicki and Queen Cougar will be the MC extraordinaires for the event.

There is still an open call searching for an opening musical or dance act to complete the festivities at the Cellblock May 27 at 8 p.m. This year's event will benefit the Leather Archives and Museum ("located in Chicago, serving the world"); the goal is to raise enough money to purchase a brick toward the new building, increasing the representation of people of color in the community.

Last month's Mid Atlantic conference saw the continuing tradition of the Chicago ONYX group's cocktail party that gets bigger and better every year! We look forward to their contribution to this year's Ebony Leather Contest. The last day of the conference saw the presentation of the Black Men In Leather manuscript, presented to Joseph Beam, executive director of the Leather Museum and Archives.



February is the designated African History month, and it's time for us to make history. One way to do that is to increase our visibility by showing our commitment to the community, a theme I never get tired of promoting.

Being a title holder means 'bottoming' to the community for the duration of your title term. Being a title holder means reaching out as a role model to a generation of men and women who are dealing with issues of sexuality and inclusion. It means showing up for fundraisers and representing your title to the best of your abilities. It's not important to be super buffed or a Shamar Moore look-a-like but being judged by your knowledge and commitment to the community and making your voice heard as the represenative voice of your constituents. This is why it is so important to enter these title contests, it's all about representation and getting out of the community what you put into it. It's one thing to bitch and moan, another to put yourself on the firing line to adopt change.

Putting together events and getting the word out about our community's diversity is a hard job. There are many title holders of color out there, as well as like-minded events all over the country highlighting diverse contributions to our communities. If each and every one of you would send me the names of these title holders and community leaders of color I would like to personally highlight them and relevant events to the POC community.

Former International Ms. Leather, Jill Carter, initiated the Unsung Hero award, and I would like to add to that tradition by introducing to my readers, the many Men and Women of color who are making a difference as people of merit willing to make a difference.

Send comments suggestions to writercain@aol.com

Thy Cup Runneth Over

Suicide is not the answer!

by Lynnell Stephani Long

In 1977, on a routine visit with my doctor, I was told I was sterile and could never have kids. I felt like my world ended then. I thought, since I could never have kids, what was the sense of living? I wanted to die! I went home and swallowed over 100 tablets of the medication I was prescribed for hypothyroidism and hypoadrenalism. When I passed out, I had what can only be described as a divine intervention. A woman came to me and told me it wasn't my time to go. She told me she had a purpose for me. I argued with her that my life wasn't worth living because I was sterile & confused about my gender. She kissed my forehead and said, "My child, you still have so much more to offer the world. You have sight and hearing. You can walk when so many others are stricken to a wheelchair." When I woke up I was sick for days, but I was alive. I guess I am sharing this event with you to let you know it does get better.

It frustrates me to write an article like this, mostly because I sometimes live in a fantasy world where no one commits suicide anymore. In

my world suicide is not even an option. The truth is suicide is not fictional. But, is suicide a Black thang, a white thang, or both? Be honest. How many of you truly believe no Black person would ever commit suicide? It is probably that thinking that caused many Black and white LesBiGayTrans teens to feel uncomfortable talking to anyone about their suicidal tendencies. What happens then is they harbor their true feelings and become depressed.

Recently, while checking my e-mail, I received a letter from someone informing me that another girl (Trans) committed suicide. The person that sent me the e-mail thought the girl was a friend of mine. I did not recognize her screen name, but that didn't stop me from calling almost everyone I knew to ask them who this girl was, and was she from Chicago. It turned out she wasn't from Chicago, but that didn't matter. What mattered was someone took their life because they felt alone, threatened and unsafe in this society.

I found out what happened to the girl was she was in the midst of a divorce. Her wife threatened to take the kids from her and never let her see them again. Because she was Transgendered, she felt no court would grant her visitation. Cases like this are very real. Someone that is a friend of mine is going through the same thing. She has been fighting for divorce for over a year now. Her divorce, at one time, caused her to postpone

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What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Advice with an attitude!

Let's give 'em Somethin to Talk about ...

Dear Readers:

Dr. King's advice had the pulse of the nation in his heart! His words still ring as brazen truth especially in today's climate of conscientious stupidity. Sincere ignorance is not bliss readers. Sounds like a familiar problem, huh? How would you solve a problem in which misinformation was being given out? How do you spell relief to this problem? I spell it: R-E-A-D!!! How many of us have been listening to WGCI recently? There are more than a couple reasons to snap!! This homophobic station has continued to use the GLBT community as the butt of their stereotypical jokes including the "Brucey" character who is a ridiculous sex-crazed lunatic who sounds like a flaming Richard Simmons take-off! But that's another story.

However, another alarming incident happened recently on Saturday, Jan. 23rd at 3 p.m. I had the unfortunate experience of listening to the radio station as I was working out. The male DeeJay (whose name escapes me) elaborated about a listener who called in about an HIV "experience." According to the DeeJay, the listener went to a movie theater and bought refreshments. She found a seat and as she was sitting down, felt a poke. She rose quickly to find a hypodermic needle in her seat with a note which stated: 'Welcome to the World of AIDS.' I thought to myself, 'this story has remnants of the early 1980s AIDS transmission scare stories.' The story ended abruptly without the DeeJay clarifying if the listener had HIV testing or her current health status.

Furthermore, the DeeJay kept going on and on about how we must now take flashlights to the movie theaters and carefully get on our knees to examine our theater seats! 'WHAT?!? I know he's going to say more!' I said to myself, 'Calm down, he'll say something further, I'm sure.' So, I stopped working out and I stood there waiting for the DeeJay to mention how someone could protect themselves from HIV. I waited until he at least provided a referral number where someone could call to ask questions regarding protecting themselves from contracting this virus. However, five minutes had elapsed and still, he said nothing informative. After his comments, he just continued to play "the hits."

The painful truth was that this DeeJay reacted as if the HIV scare angle was a cute leeway into a commercial or another hip hop tune; a little joke between homies. The subject had been treated like it was the next sensational story that happened to come across his desk; a juicy piece of gossip that must be shared and laughed about instead of used as a tool to insight discussion. Unfortunately, another perfect opportunity was blown to have a frank discussion regarding HIV prevention in the African-American community.

Like Dr. King said, we all have a moral responsibility to be intelligent! It is my hope that the GLBT community begins to call people out on miseducation! As the second wave of HIV infection continues to rise disproportionally among African-Americans & Hispanics in the Chicagoland area, it's very crucial that we know the facts regarding transmission. It hasn't changed! I must admit that I have never heard of anyone getting the virus through sitting on a needle in a move theater!! However, allow me to be very clear: hypodermic needle pokes are certainly a major hazard! Some of us have experienced it and I am not trying to say it doesn't happen. However, I am stating that I think whenever the media reports an HIV story of this nature, they must also be responsible and give ALL the facts in the story. In addition, in this case a follow-up component to the story could have answered any other questions listeners may have had about the situation.

Whenever we hear such stories, we in the GLBT community must speak up!! Speaking honestly and openly is the key to staying healthy as well as correcting misinformation. WGCI may have benefited tremendously from some of our experiences. In my opinion, no one will deem our experiences and our lives but us. So, next time anyone tries to disrespect us and /or speak misinformation let's get real! Let's write/fax those letters to the media including the television stations or better yet flood the radio lines with phone calls! We are family & family that READ together, SUCCEED together!! Together, we can move mountains, readers!

Questions? Comments? By all means, let your voice be heard! E-mail me at PrestonMSW @ aol.com

R. Williams dies

The Yours in the Struggle Project mourns the passing of its founder-partner, Reggie Williams, in Amsterdam. His domestic partner, Wolfgang Schreiber, said Williams, 47, died peacefully in the hospital Feb. 7 of AIDS-related complications. Private memorials are planned Amsterdam and in his birthplace of Cincinnati; a San Francisco celebration of his life will be announced.

Reggie, an international HIV/AIDS and human rights activist, is best known as the founding Executive Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP), the first federally funded AIDS service organization focusing on African-American men who have sex with men. From its inception in 1988 to his retirement in early 1994, he led NTFAP with a combination of personal devotion to an ever-growing constituency; empowerment and encouragement of others to do prevention work in their own communities; and willingness both to speak truth to power when necessary and to work toward meaningful collaboration when possible. The demise of NTFAP in 1998, largely due to the mismanagement of those to whom he had entrusted it upon his retirement, was a bitter disappointment to him.

Forced by a draconian U.S. law forbidding the immigration of his HIV-positive partner to the U.S., Reggie moved to Amsterdam in 1994, where his relationship with Wolfgang entitled him to the benefits of Dutch citizenship. In 1995, he and former NTFAP media coordinator Al Cunningham formed the Yours in the Struggle Project to document and disseminate the largely overlooked story of the involvement of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender AIDS activists of African descent in the fight against the pandemic. In Amsterdam, his activism continued through Amnesty International and a local gay men of color organization, Strange Fruit.

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ARTISTS AND HEALING ARTS Practitioners can have shared space at new North Side Urban Art Retreat location for $100 monthly rental membership. If you need a place to draw or paint, or a place to offer massage or talk therapy, call **(773) 275-1319.** Do you need meeting space or workshop space or to rent gallery space? Super affordable. *(3/99)*

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HELP WANTED

PREVENTION CASE MANAGER for Horizons Community Services Youth Services Program. This full-time position includes conducting client intakes, co-facilitating youth discussion groups, reporting on our prevention program, working with youth of color, providing education to clients and serving as an agency rep. to community groups and organizations. Qualified candidates will possess a Bachelor's degree in Human Services or related field, minimum of two years experience in a youth program, background in HIV prevention, sensitivity to LGBT issues, strong oral/written skills. Bilingual/bicultural a plus. Please send a resume and cover letter to **Lance Toma, Dir. of Psychosocial Services, Horizons, 961 W. Montana, Chicago, IL 60614.** EOE. No phone calls please. *(3/99)*

THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER, the Midwest's leading gay, lesbian, and bisexual health center, has the following positions available:
OUTREACH WORKER (2 FT): Conduct outreach to high-risk populations to involve them in ongoing research projects with emphasis on under-represented populations, BA in relevant disciplines preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and organizational ability necessary. Demonstrated skills in community planning and development highly desirable. Experience with clinical research and HIV education beneficial.
COUNSELORS (2FT): Counsel research participants in behavioral intervention trial. Will conduct participant interviews and counsel participants in form of HIV risk assessments, risk reduction counseling and HIV pre and post-test counseling. Bachelors degree in clinical psychology, social work or relevant field required. Masters degree preferred. Excellent organizational and interpersonal skills necessary and ability to work with diverse clients and staff. Experience with clinical research and HIV education desirable. To apply: send resume to **Courtney Reid, Director of HR, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613, courtneyr@howard-brown.org or FAX (773) 388-8887.** Women and people of color are encouraged to apply. EOE. (3/99)

HOME SERVICES

REMODELING EXPERTS. Specializes in ALL Interior & Exterior designer renovations. All of my workers are salaried employees. Unlike most companies, we don't sub-contract out to do your work! In fact sometimes they call me to do their work. You can save money and have perfect results. **Give me a call. References. Licensed & Insured. Jim 773-549-5678.** *(3/99)*

PHOTOGRAPHY

BAD, BOLD, AND BLACK: For sampler set (8 men, 8 photos), send age (21+), signature, $10, to Zebra Studios, P.O. Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (Potential models welcome!). *(2/00)*

TRAVEL

GETAWAY COTTAGES in new Buffalo, Mich., 1-1/2 hours from Chicago. Near beach, restaurants, shopping. VCR/TV. 2 or 3 bedroom, fireplace, **(312) 287-2400; 1-800-44-ENVOY.** *(9/98)*

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $24/12 issues (hdcpy only). Malebox2@aol.com

ADULT SERVICES

PENIS, NIPPLE enlargement Professional vacuum pumps or surgical enlargement. Gain 1-3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. For FREE Brochures call: **Dr. Joel Kaplan, (312) 409-1950.** Latest enlargement information **1-900-976-PUMP** ($2.95 min.). e-mail us at www.drjoelkaplan.com *(7/99)*

BLACK-LINES is seeking **photo-graphers** to cover community events, clubs, sports, and more.

Call BLACKlines to arrange for an interview. Professional experience not necessary. Your published work will be paid for. (773) 871-7610. Ask for LaJaunessee or Israel.

Anchor Mortgage

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Conventional, FHA & VA, Refinancing. Prequalifications, Single-Family or multi-unit. City and Suburban.

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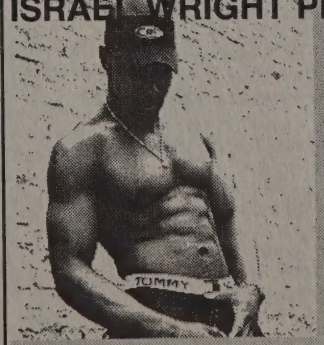
ISRAEL WRIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS



3606 North Pine Grove Avenue 3J
Chicago, IL 60613

Phone: 773-871-1645
Fax: 773-871-2516

e-mail:
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(773) 248-8887

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(312) 922-9344

PERSONALS

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101. **To keep your free voice box active continuously,** you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.**WARNINGS: 1.** We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. **2.** Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

CODE: ISO = In Search Of

Men

B Transgendering WM, 43, 5'7", 185#, ISO BM, 30+, for sincere, loving, long-term relationship. All serious replies will be answered! **Voice 52807** *(5)*

Am a Black Male from Jamaica age 48. Seeking a relationship with a loving person of any race. Am a top, love sex, am very loving. **NLVoice 52805** *(4)*

40 year old Black male, 6", 190#, non-smoker, drug free and disease free, looking to develop a friendship or a monogamous relationship with a Black male or Latino male, age 29 to 47 years old. He should be drug free, disease free, and have a sense of humor. Not looking for one night stand. **NLBox389** *(4)*

Handsome BM 47, 5'11," 176#, interested in a goodlooking, good built masculine financially secure social drinker, BM 25-40. No drugs & no games. **NL387** *(4)*

True love, romance, passion, friendship, endless kissing and more. Nice looking Latino 27, 6', 150#. Expecting to find love with black, tall skinny guy, I'm not asking for much. Just someone real. Let's give it a chance. **NL391** *(5)*

Bottom GBM wanted. GWM 48 (boyish looking) 5'10"190# seeks bottom GBM/AM/HM 21-45 for sex buddy who also enjoys mutual JO, 69 and rimming. Smooth, cut a plus but not required. Not seeking relationship. Write **Tom, NLBox 377** *(4)*

Attractive, sensitive, independent, head strong 25 y/o BM, 6'1", 180#, looking for romance, affection and what ever happens, happens, from a BM who is masculine independent, with a loving heart. Versatile or top If this is you, write me. **NL379** *(3)*

Hispanics and Bears for SAFE encounters and friendship. A plus for heavy cummers. I'm Latino, passionate. I won't disappoint you. **NL 381** *(3)*

Bottom GBM wanted. GWM 48 (boyish looking) 5'10"190# seeks bottom GBM/PM/HM 21-45 for sex buddy who also enjoys mutual JO, 69 and rimming. Smooth, cut a plus but not required. Not seeking relationship. Write **Tom, NLBox 789** *(3)*

Fuck me! Let me suck your cock. BiWM novice looking for a good time. Age, race, unimportant. **NLVoice 52797** *(3)*

Creative tongue/throat massage. Northern travelers #Hwy 94 N to WIS. Well hung mensafe-sane regular service. **Voice52803** (3)

Tall attractive sensitive and easygoing GBM 33 years old seeks a relationship oriented 28-35 year old man to dazzle with all the romance within my heart... you must be free of drugs, diseases, and all major hang ups! Drop me a line...**NLBox 367** *(4)*

Sex, romance, hot top 5'9", 155# 25 y/o, Bi BM military discreet seeks slim/skinny bottom any race under 37 y/o **Leo Pager (312) 216-9101** *(4)*

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, e-mail or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. ***Classified rates*** ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	**$_____**

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

WOMEN

Very attractive androgynous black lesbian ISO same for friendship and possibly more. Must be drug, alcohol, disease free, and single. Lt. smoker OK. Over 35, wt. proportioned to ht. Please no bi's, bi-curious or closet cases. Want to know more about me, give me a call. **Pager# (773) 226-1518** *(5)*

Happy Valentine, Babe. Dear P.S.S., I believe in love after love, with time! I always felt that we belonged together. Who would believe after 10 years we'd find happiness, love and peace within ourselves. So what do you say? Marry me and be my Valentine for life? **Love DMB** *(4)*

SBGF seeking SBGF for friendship first, slowly moving toward a foundation. Quiet time, movies, some outings, someone with passion, a caring heart of gold, age 33-47.

BLACKLINES CLASSIFIEDS

$10 one month

$27 three months

$51 six months

just $90 one year

(773) 871-7610.

Beeper (773) 441-7103 *(4)*

Sensual, dynamic, vibrant and creative, 47, SWF professional seeks woman for developing real relationship. Very attractive, active, animal lover. Meditative, spontaneous. Sense of fun the essence of connection for me. **NL/Voice52792** *(4)*

South suburban sisters! Are you interested in meeting your lesbian neighbors for social connections? **VM 708 403-3430**

Fun-loving, clean, cute, spiritual, non-smoking, open, employed, and oral woman ISO the same in a femme. No Bi's please. 35 or younger. To receive me as your blessing from above, please dial **(773) 226-9045,** press 2, leave your name and number and/or press 1 and leave your number.

Looking for a friend, GBF late 30's, attractive, sexy, intelligent, entertaining, and very fun loving. Enjoy too many things to list. ISO attractive feminine female over 5", non-smoker w/ similar interests & qualities to spend available time with...Status, age & race unimportant (let's talk)**NLBox 210** *(4)*

Happy Valentine, Babe. Dear P.S.S., I believe in love after love, with time! I always felt that we belonged together. Who would believe after 10 years we'd find happiness, love and peace within ourselves. So what do you say? Marry me and be my Valentine for life? **Love DMB** *(3)*

Petite BF (5'3", 124#) early 40s interested in younger AFs. Must be open, unattached, fun, uncomplicated...definitely sensuous. **Voice 52784** *(3)*

GWF 43, thankful for so much in my life, but looking for someone special with whom to share it. I love reading (especially newspapers and community newsletters), gardening (my special interests include creating "green space" in unlikely city spots, and prairie plants). I enjoy singing harmony and listening to classical/folk music. I play volleyball and especially enjoy women's basketball. I love the "human interest stories" that show perseverance and kindness. But I also love to find the hidden humor in situations. The most important thing to me is my faith and relationship with my Higher Power. I attend traditional Christian services and regular recovery meetings. I hope to meet a woman aged 35-50 who is caring, sincere, patient, tolerant and who enjoys the outdoors. I'm looking forward to a special friendship and more. Please n/s, n/d, light drinking okay. Northside Chicago but can travel. **NLBox 186** *(3)*

SBF 5'2" 120# 51 y/o stud. Intelligent honest, self-sufficient, fun-loving, loves Horror, Sci-fi, Hist and Disc channels, fishing, reading. Can be homebody and/or party animal. No kids (except one small puppy and one cat.) ISO SBF, short, slim, 35-48 y/o femme, honest, no drugs, no bi, no curious, no games, likes pets. For dates, possible LTR. **NLBox 188** *(3)*

30 y/o dykey bi femme, cute, loves animals, dancing, laughing, pet stores, ice cream, new things. Wants a lover not a quickie. Don't answer if you're politically correct, psycho or a U-Haul addict. **Voice 52776** *(3.*

Hello, SBF, 30's open minded and would like to meet other SBF's especially feminine) for friendship first (I really do mean friends first). I can be everything from "overly serious" to "very light hearted." **NL/Voice 52778** *(3)*

Tell me your dreams and I'll tell you mine. I dream of a GBF, 25-35, witty, independent and adventurous looking for that special woman **Voice 52790** *(3)*

LYNNELL from 25

her life. Meaning, she had planned to come out, change her name and live her life as the woman she feels she is. What happened is her wife threatened her, but because she is a lawyer, she knew her rights. She did come out and will be changing her name soon. Her divorce is still pending, but she finally took control over her life and came out, and she has visitation with her two boys.

It is sad to report that these things do happen in the Trans/Intersex community. Sometimes if you are ignorant of your rights, you may think you have no choice but to give up. I beg of you, if this is happening to you, please seek the advice of a lawyer. If your lawyer tells you your case is hopeless, get another lawyer. There is no such thing as a hopeless case. You have the right to have custody or visitation with your kids. For years gays & lesbians have been fighting for the right to adopt or have custody of their kids, and some of them have been successful. Life is not great all the time, but it's still worth living. When it seems like a door was shut in front of you be patient, another one will open soon. If you believe in God or Goddess, talk to them and tell them your problems and fears. If you do not believe in them, believe in something, even if it's the Sun. Every day the Sun rises. There are some days the sun is brighter than others, but it's still there. Find faith and hold on to it.

We each have a purpose in life. If you are not sure what your purpose is, pray on it.

Suicide is not the answer! If you kill yourself, you will just have to come back and do it all over again, from the beginning. If you think you need help then contact a Trans/Intersex support group. There are some very good support groups for Trans/Intersex youths and adults in Chicago. For help call TranGenesis (312-839-5541), Chicago Gender Society (708-863-7714), Howard Brown (773-388-1600) or Horizons Community Services (773-472-6469). Harriett Tubman Place/Pathfinders is an African-American resource for GLBT teens and young adults, (773) 626-1443.

Whatever you do don't give up, help is right around the corner.

Lynnell Stephani Long is a Trans/Intersex Activist. Her e-mail is TSReporter@aol.com or write her at Lambda Publications, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657. FAX (773) 871-7609.

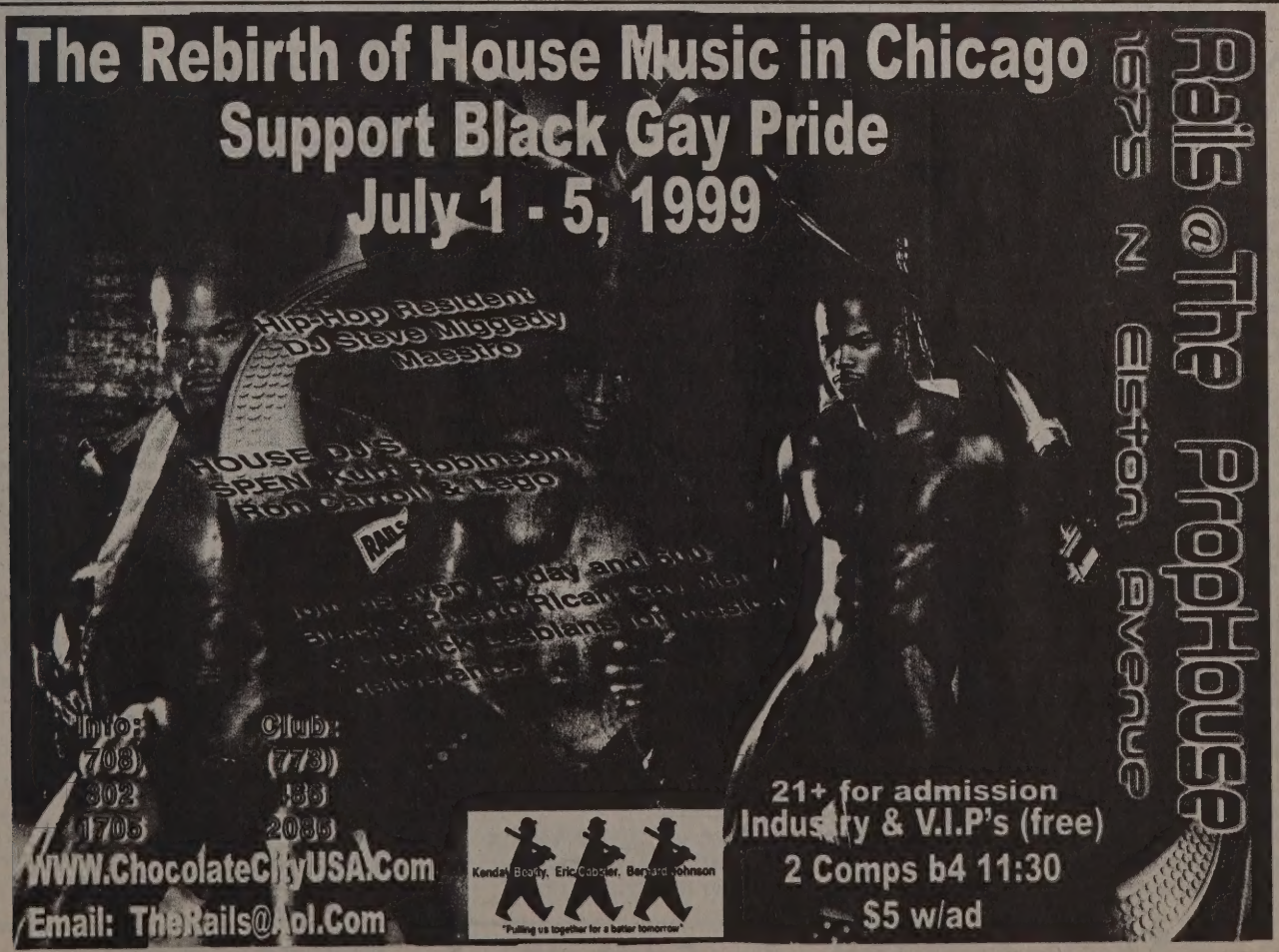
SANDERS from 24

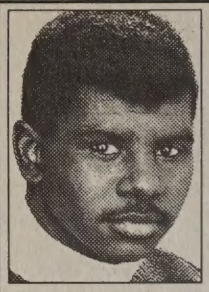
my head. "I am the man who's been dreaming and waiting for you my entire life," he says to me. I lean back into his chest; I want to stay like that forever. My alarm goes off and I can not stay there.

This is a recurring dream that I have. It happens at least once every week.

In dreams, I find hope, I find peace, and joy and I find true love. Now I know that the person who is out there for me probably won't be six-feet tall and he won't walk up to me and take me on the dance floor. He will have one thing in common with my dream lover. It will be the feelings that I have when I am near him. I will be the man he's been dreaming and waiting for his entire life. My dreams give me the will to keep up the search. What person would want to take that away? If I didn't have my dreams, I don't think I could keep up the struggle.

In dreams I receive the energy to keep up with life.





World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

February is the month that we celebrate valentines, presidents—and, of course, Black history. In keeping with the latter item, here are some Afrocentric sites to help you become more educated and, ultimately, in touch with your brothers and sisters:

Quick—what biblical character was Harriet Tubman compared to? The Internet African American History Challenge (http://160.79.207.23/blackhistory/) lists profiles of prominent 19th-century Blacks (like Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, and the aforementioned Tubman) and includes quizzes. Although it's aimed primarily at teens, the information is essential for all.

The African American Odyssey Page (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohthl/exhibit/aointro.html) spotlights the titular collection, currently in the Library of Congress. The materials displayed focus on various eras, from the antebellum years to the Booker T. Washington era to the civil-rights period. You can link to pages citing these phases and read what the times were (and, to a degree, still are) like for Black Americans. Afrigeneas (http://www.msstate.edu/Archives/History/afrigen) delves into the field of genealogy and specifically Black ancestry. You can "share your genealogical research and resources in general and your African ancestry in particular" and even get feedback on how to search your own family tree.

Civil Rights Timeline (http://www.seattletimes.com/mlk/movement/Seatimeline.html) is just that: a visual marker that showcases everything from Rosa Parks' own sit-in to the Rodney King incident.

Chicago's DuSable Museum of African-American History (http://www.dusablemuseum.org/) spotlights the famed institution. Pages include: Museum Info, Exhibits ("Africa Speaks," "Songs of My People," and "DuSable Treasures"), Calendar of Events, The Trading Post, and Cinema Series (upcoming films feature Mahalia Jackson in concert and "The Women of Brewster Place").

▼▼▼▼▼

Contact me at gemini1@nwu.edu.

WHOOPI GETS GLAAD AWARD

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced that Oscar-winning actress Whoopi Goldberg will receive the 1999 Vanguard Award at the 10th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. The Media Awards, which will take place in three ceremonies this year, will honor Goldberg April 17 at the Century Plaza Hotel and Towers in Los Angeles.

The Vanguard Award is presented to a member of the entertainment or media community who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for lesbians and gay men. Past recipients of the award include Cher, Cristina Saralegui, Roseanne, Sid Sheinberg, Aaron Spelling and Steven Tisch.

Goldberg's film debut in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple*, portraying a woman who among other things explores her sexual orientation, garnered her an Oscar nomination. She went on to star in such films as *Soapdish*, *Sister Act*, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back and Ghost*, which won Goldberg an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1990. In 1995's *Boys on the Side*, she portrayed a lesbian who befriends two women, played by Mary Louise Parker and Drew Barrymore, on a cross-county trip. In 1997, she appeared in the Christopher Reeve's HBO drama *In the Gloaming*, the story of a young gay HIV-positive man's return home. Goldberg also portrays a lesbian police officer in the film *Deep End of the Ocean*, which stars Michelle Pfeiffer and opens March 12. On March 21, 1999 Goldberg will host the Academy Awards on ABC.

MORTEN JOINS GLAAD'S BOARD

GLAAD has appointed Mary F. Morten to its Board of Directors. Morten is the second Chicago-area board member for the national lesbian and gay media advocacy group, joining David E. Springer, who has served on the board for nine months.

"We are enormously fortunate to have Mary on board," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "Her history with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Chicago, her media experience, and her keen understanding of our community's issues will be an invaluable team."

GLAAD is hosting a Chicago reception Feb. 26 at Sidetrack, and media training Feb. 27. Call (800) 429-6334 ext. 13.

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs.....312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W,D,V.....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D,
1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-395-8660
K.C. Productions at Cotton Club, Sundays.....312-341-9787
1710 S. Michigan, open til 4 a.m., shows
THE RAILS AT PROP HOUSE, 1675 N. Elston, FRIDAYS
MW,D, TheRails@aol.com.....708-802-1705
THE VIX: A Jazz Supperclub, 2814 N. Halsted
MW,D,R,GS 773-529-3999

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R.....773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark.....773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun. ..312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4.....773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D.....773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE.....312-409-0276
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V.....773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D.....773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat)..... 847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649.....312-409-7609
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573 773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans Performers
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread.....312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
outlines@suba.com http://www.suba.com/~outlines/
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com
P.O. Box 496024. Chicago 60649
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network)
Programming 773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent...773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181.....312-409-4917
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band 773-434-6099
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 ..773-778-3030
Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent ..773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen 708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men....773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery.....773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies.....312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago,PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum.....202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians
of African Descent, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Phrasority *parties for all lesbians and gays*.....312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital.....773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649 773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support ..773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois.....847-625-7263
TransGenesis trans support.....312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839

HO RIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES presents...

THE REAL CHAT ROOM

A SATURDAY MORNING DISCUSSION SERIES

Real people. *Real* chat. *Real* room.

Be a part of an exciting new program offered by Horizons – ***The Real Chat Room Discussion Series***. Eight lively conversations on hot topics of interest to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) community. Come to one or as many as you like. It's a chance to get on your soapbox, to meet new friends, and revive the art of *live* chat. And it's all for the price of a movie!

105. "Ellen" Vs. "Will & Grace": What Does Being Out on TV Really Mean?
Women & Men. Saturday, February 27.
Was *Ellen* too gay for American audiences? Does *Will & Grace* keep the heterosexual fantasy alive? Who decides what we watch? Is it ratings or boycotts? Do TV's gay images have consequences for our community? How do they shape the culture's opinions about what it means to be gay in America?

106. Are Plastic Pecs the Answer? Sexuality for Gay Men: Is There Too Much Focus on the Physical? *Men only. Saturday, March 6.*
Sex is readily available to Gay men. Yet men who desire intimacy beyond the physical act seem to have difficulty finding it. Does the community's focus on youth and beauty impact our ability to find and mantain relationships with men who are less than perfect?

107. Breaking the U-Haul Cycle: Can Women Just Date? *Women only. Saturday, March 13.*
Are you stuck in a pattern of meeting someone, rushing into a relationship, then realizing 6 months later that you shouldn't be together? Why do we feel we must commit for life on the second date? What are the factors behind this behavior and how do we break the cycle?

108. What's It All About? Spirituality: What Does It Mean for Us? *Women & Men. Saturday, March 20.*
What gives our lives meaning? How do we nourish our spirits? Do you feel shut out by mainstream religion, or is religion even an issue? Does ritual play a role in our lives? Have our life experiences damaged our spirits, or have they led us to a capacity for unique spiritual insights?

The Real Chat Room Discussion Series
Where: Horizons, 961 West Montana, Chicago 60614 **Time:** 10 am to 12 pm **Fee:** $8 per group
Each group is limited to 15 people, so sign up early!

The Real Chat Room Discussion Series Registration

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone: (Home) _____ /_____ (Work) _____ /_____

Please register me for the following **Real Chat Room Discussion Groups**:

101____ 102____ 103____ 104____ 105____ 106____ 107____ 108____

Enclosed is my check made out to Horizons for $_____ **Mail to:** Horizons, 961 West Montana, Chicago 60614, Attn: ESS

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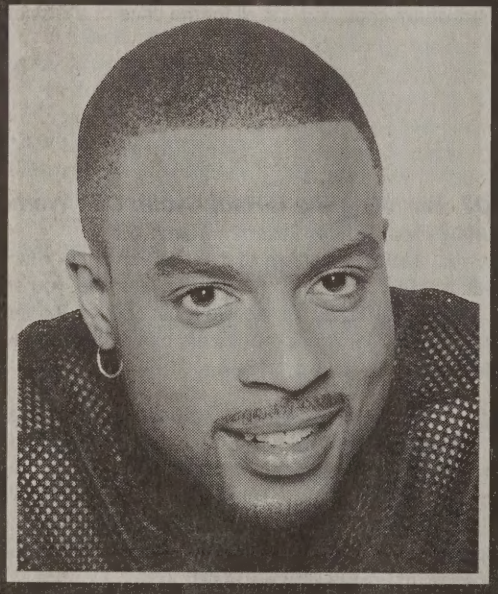
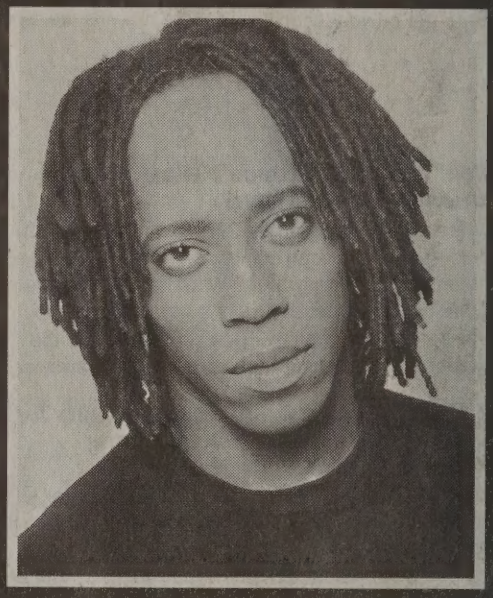
BROTHERS C.A.N.

Community Awareness Network

An HIV Prevention Program for African-American Gay & Bisexual Men





GAMBA

A men's discussion group for gay and bisexual men.
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

- **Wednesday, March 10:** Sex and The Positive Man
- **Wednesday, March 24:** What is our responsibility as single gender loving men to youth?

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March. 1999, Vol. 4, No. 2 Free/$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

THE PLAY IS THE WORD

Playwright Shirlene Holmes (ABOVE) is in Chicago this month as A Real Read (RIGHT) performs her works in the 'All Out Festival.' Lots of local gay talent will be performing and directing in the festival. See page 21.

ALSO INSIDE:
Pat's Pics, bell hooks, CBLG conference, & more!

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BLACK LINES

March 1999
Volume 4, Number 2

BLACK*lines* Staff:

Managing Coordinator
La Jaunessee Jordan

Senior News Reporter
Robert Schultz

Photography Israel Wright, Lynnell S. Long, Rosalind Glanton

Art/Design:
Otis Richardson, Elandria Henderson, Rodney Moore

Editorial Contributors:
Vicky Nabors, Janice Layne, Harry Tyner, Andrew Davis, Jon Dallas, Lynnell S. Long, Cain Berlinger, Kathleen Rose Winter, Preston Schumaker, Lester Davis, Shamara Riley, Jean Pierre Campbell, C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Charles Clifton, Dwayne Sanders, Vernita Gray, Rhonda Mundhank, J., Byron Stewart, Sherri Jackson, Donna Rose, Patricia Mickey, Leslie D. McClellan.

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Lambda Publications Staff:
PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Terri S. Klinsky, Trish Koch, Kathleen Ulm
Israel Wright, Daniel Finley, Robert Schultz

Editorial: D. Jean Albright

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: **outlines@suba.com**

World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
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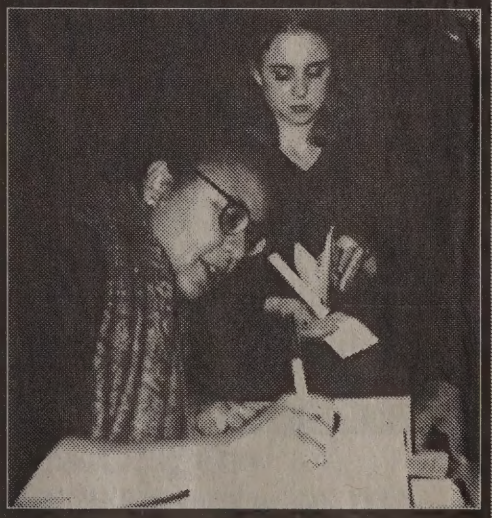
BELOW: See page 18 for a feature on writer bell hooks' recent Chicago visit.



BLACKlines

is on the World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

ELECTION NEWS: BLACKlines went to press before the Feb. 23 elections. See next month for results.

BLACKlines

DEADLINE is the 5th of each month for articles, calendar, photos, art, poetry, viewpoints, etc. Material used on a space-available basis.

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

March 8th is International Womyn's Day and most of the chocolate sisters have the dance on their minds. "Who will I invite?" "Can I afford tickets for both of us? Damn! Twenty dollars! Weren't they cheaper last year?" "How can I juggle things so I can take her to dinner too?" "Will we spend the night together?" "How many ex-lovers will I run into? Will we slow dance, for old time's sake, and when we talk, remember why we aren't together anymore?"

The dance is great and the organizations that will benefit from the ticket sales are doing some fabulous things in the community. But since life is more than a song and dance, I ask, what are you doing the following Monday and earlier in the day on Saturday? (I know a couple of my ex's will spend the entire day at the beauty shop and barely make it back in time to go to the dance. But that's another story/yeah.)

For years, I have gone to the Womyn's Day demonstration and rally and most of those years I have been one of the speakers. At planning meetings and on the day of, I have been one of only a handful (if that many) of Black faces in the crowd. Even when there are Black organizations that are co-sponsors of the event, there still doesn't seem to be much of a difference in the numbers of the attendees with skin like mine.

I used to think it was partially due to the weather during the lunchtime demonstration and rally, during which participants walk from location to location and hear a diverse group of female speakers talk about issues important to womyn locally, nationally and internationally. Part of the problem, I think, for colored girls, is that March has usually come in like a lion and that brisk downtown wind is not kind to our African--I want to be warm--bodies. So being in often sub-freezing weather for an hour or two does not sound appealing enough, no matter who the speaker nor how powerful the message. Also if folks aren't working downtown, maybe getting time off doesn't work.

I used to think the weather was a factor. But since the International Women's Day Coalition began sponsoring a conference, in addition to the demonstration and rally, I still haven't really noticed an increase in the number of Black folks. Now, these womyn love me and my presentations. That's why they ask me to speak so often. In fact, I will be a presenter at this year's conference. I also love them and love being a part of our day and our month. I know many of the womyn involved in the planning process, and I am aware of how warm and welcoming they are. Now that part of the festivities are inside, thus warm, and still welcoming, where are the Black womyn? This is the 5th annual conference. There are Black organizations that are co-sponsors. Former co-sponsors are Affinity and Yahimba. Are the conference topics not of much interest to Black womyn? Are outreach efforts not working? The theme of this year's conference is "Building a Global Women's Movement." Sisters, are we going to be part of the planning and part of that movement? Help me out. I'm clueless.

The 5th Annual Women's Day Conference will be Saturday, March 6. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Chicago-Kent College of Law. For more info call (773) 278-6706.

Trying to cope with the pressure of living with HIV/AIDS?

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Paid Volunteers Needed!

African-American Men

who have sex with men are needed to participate in a research project being conducted at

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Interested individuals may call (773) 508-8903 for more information

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Affinity Calendar of Events
March 1999

March 4, 1999:
Healthy Woman Series, 7 p.m.

March 5, 1999:
Financial Freedom Workshop
presented by D. Lisa Powell
7-9 p.m., $10 workshop fee

March 6, 1999:
10th Annual International
Women's Day Benefit Dance
At the Congress Hotel, 8 p.m.-2 a.m.
(Co-sponsored with the Literary Exchange, Women's Assistance Fund and Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network)

March 11, 1999:
Lez Chat —
Basic Massage and Sexual Play —
with Pat McCombs, 7 p.m.

March 20, 1999:
Forty Plus meets 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

March 27, 1999:
Ubaka Hill Drumming Workshop
Sliding Scale fee, call for details

Unless otherwise noted all events
held at Affinity,
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5650 S. Woodlawn, Garden Level
RSVP (312) 409-7609

$10 workshop fee

Another historic ruling in South Africa

by S. Predrag

SOUTH AFRICA—The Cape High Court established yet another precedent in South Africa by ruling in favor of Franck Joly, a 20-year-old Paris business school graduate, who was finally allowed to join his partner, Hilton Kaplan, a 32-year-old Cape Town plastic surgeon.

Three High Court judges declared deportation orders against gays illegal, and Section 28 of the Aliens Control Act unconstitutional.

It was a historic ruling, allowing the foreign partners of South Africans to settle in this country whose immigration laws discriminated against same-sex couples.

Joly was recently barred from entering South Africa and was even detained in a solitary cell at Cape Town International Airport.

South African immigration authorities threatened Joly with deportation and asked him to pay a 3000 South African Rand repatriation deposit (around 500 U.S. dollars).

However, the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE) made an urgent application to have the Aliens Control Act declared unconstitutional.

Judge Dennis Davis and two other judges of the High Court in Cape Town allowed Franck Joly to enter South Africa and the respondents—the Minister of Home Affairs, the Director General of Home Affairs and the Regional Department of Home Affairs—were ordered to pay the costs of the application.

Last year, in Cape Town, a number of South African gay and lesbian partners, including Kaplan and Joly, gave evidence to Parliament's portfolio committee on home affairs, pleading for the Aliens Control Act to be changed. They specifically asked that same-sex and unmarried couples in a committed relationship should be given the same status as spouses.

"For these couples," stated the South African influential daily, THE STAR, "the possibility of making a home in South Africa and evading the chilling threat of deportation could lie in changing the meaning of a single word."

Namely, the NCGLE insisted that the term "partner" should be included to signify those people who could get an immigration and residence permit. Taught by their earlier battles with the authorities, the NCGLE this time specified that "partner" should mean "a person irrespective of sex, permanently and lawfully resident in the Republic, living together or intending to live together in an intimate and committed domestic partnership."

Their intention was to leave no legal loopholes which would allow for discrimination against homosexuals. They had already had a negative experience in 1998 with Albert Mokoena, the Director-General of Home Affairs, who had stated under oath that he would exempt couples from section 28 of the Aliens Control Act.

During the hearings, last December, the Home Affairs Director-General had promised to treat both lesbian and gay applicants with dignity and due consideration.

However, just weeks after that, Franck Jolly was detained at Cape Town airport and asked to pay a deportation fee.

It is a well-known fact that tens of thousands of Mozambicans, Zimbabweans and other nationals are deported each year from South Africa, but it appears that only gays and lesbians are asked to pay a deportation fee.

Immigration officials attempted to explain the inconsistency, hiding behind the rule that it is at their discretion to decide who will pay the deportation fee.

But, such an explanation evidently did not impress the three High Court judges in Cape Town and, of course, Zackie Achmat of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality, who described their ruling as a historic precedent for South Africa.

Another precedent was set last year by Judge JP Roux who ruled that police regulations excluding gay and lesbian officers from registering their partners with Polmed (medical aid) were unconstitutional.

In his ruling, the judge Roux said that it was time for South African law to recognize committed gay and lesbian relationships as being no different from those of married couples.

The ruling came after a lesbian police officer in Pretoria filed a lawsuit in the High Court against the police medical aid society, Polmed, for refusing to register her female partner as a dependant.

South Africa is still the only country in Africa whose constitutional court recently declared consensual sexual intercourse between members of the same sex as being no longer unlawful, underlining that a person may not be discriminated against on the ground of his or her sexual orientation.

GAY GROUP BLASTS BANANA

The group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) forcefully denounced former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana Jan. 28 after Banana defamed gays.

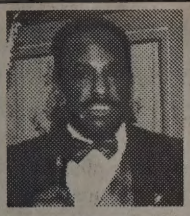
On Jan. 18, Banana, 63, was sentenced to prison with labor on 11 counts of forcing himself sexually on aides, bodyguards, a cook and a gardener—all males.

Yet, in a new interview with the FINANCIAL GAZETTE, Banana said: "Homosexuality ... is a deviant social behaviour. It is abominable. It is wrong not only according to the scriptures but also according to our culture."

He added, "There is absolutely no truth in these charges [against me]."

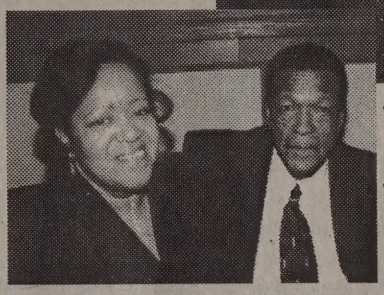
GALZ members were appalled. "It is one thing for you [Banana] to remain silent or neutral about homosexuality; it is quite another for you to castigate us when you have been convicted of engaging in homosexual activity yourself," spokesman Keith Goddard said in an open letter.

"To describe your own kind as deviant and abominable is to define yourself as a sell-out. ... GALZ was constantly asked to comment on your trial and your personal life and we refused. Instead, we commented on the issues we believed were relevant to the trial: sexual assault, decriminalising consensual sodomy, abuse of office and whether or not it was possible for you to receive a fair trial in such a homophobic climate. ... Rumours of your homosexuality have abounded within the gay community for many years. Nevertheless, we have consistently maintained a policy never to out people ... . Now you have the audacity to contribute to the hate campaign against us. Even though you do not wish to identify ... as a fellow gay person or lend support to this organisation and its activities, we would ask that, in future, you refrain from making comments which are damaging to the work of GALZ and the lives of the people we represent." —*Rex Wockner*



Brian Davis Foundation benefit

The 3rd annual Brian Davis Memorial Foundation benefit was held Feb. 13 at Ann Sather's, with special guest Laura Jones from Fox News. Roslyn Davis, mother of Brian (who died of AIDS complications) created the foundation in her son's memory to help raise funds for the fight against AIDS in the African-American community. TOP, LEFT: MC Reginald Jackson. RIGHT: Roslyn and her son Kevin (front), along with board members and Jones. FAR LEFT: Roslyn with Jones. MIDDLE: Patrons at the event. BELOW, LEFT: Cathy Gardner (from the CHICAGO DEFENDER) was honored by Roslyn for support of the fund. MIDDLE: Lora Branch and Debra Brown. RIGHT: Roslyn, Gardner, and Warner Baxter. Photos by Brian McGee



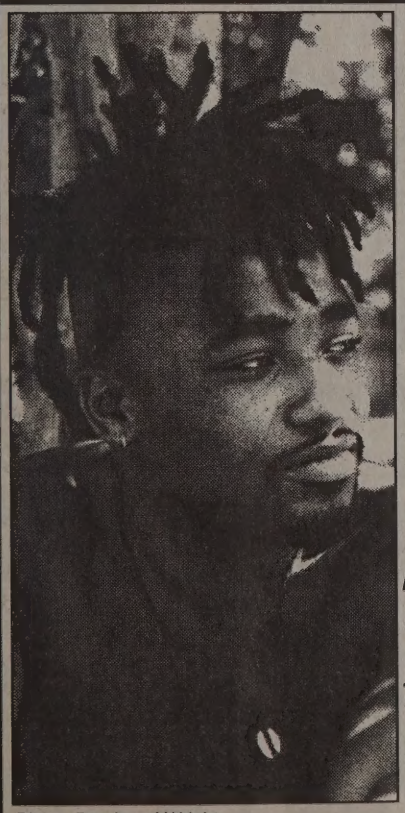


Photo By: Israel Wright

ADODI CHICAGO

A gathering for men of African Descent who love other men.

ADODI CHICAGO

meets the first Saturday each month at MOIP offices located at 1255 S. Wabash. Join us for lively conversation and an opportunity to fellowship with other **ADO**s.

ADODI, is the plural of **ADO**, a Yoruba word that describes a man who loves another man. More than just a description of partners, in Africa, the **ADODI** of the tribe were revered as shamans, sages and leaders.

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longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

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For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should <u>not</u> take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

  Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

  This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

  These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

  If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs

  VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

  The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)

  The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do **not** have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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CALL 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

CBLG confab in April

Barbara Smith

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays will host its 5th annual community development conference, Unity V, on Friday through Sunday, April 16-18, at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. "And Still We Rise: Vision Toward Our Future," is this year's conference theme. The site is wheelchair accessible and sign language interpreters will be available.

Barbara Smith, Rev. Carol Johnson, and Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones will be the keynote speakers at the conference. Smith recently published *The Truth That Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender and Freedom.* Rev. Johnson is one of the first African-American inductees into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones is currently a professor of Cultural Sciences at the Starr King School of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

The conference co-chairs are Susan Stanley and Robert Schultz. Conference committee chairs include Program Committee Donna Rose Weems and Joseph Boynton; Outreach Pat McCombs; Public Relations Vernita Gray and Israel Wright; Volunteer Shamarili Majmudar and Kuashan Collier; Logistics Verna Turner and Charles Clifton; Resource Development Rebecca Pope and Chris Bell; Youth Brad Moore and Horizons Community Services Youth Group.

Volunteers interested in helping should call (312) 409-4917.

10th Annual International Women's Day Benefit Dance 1999

Saturday, March 6, 1999

8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Congress Hotel, The Great Hall

520 S. Michigan

$20 advance, $25 at the door. No Personal Checks at door.

DJ Sheron Webb ~ Dancing

Appetizers ~ Cash Bar ~ Craft Bazaar

SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE

Tickets are available from members of each organization and at

Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark

Call (773) 509-6881

A fundraising event sponsored by: The Literary Exchange, AFFINITY, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, and the Women's Assistance Fund.

Co-spons. OUTLINES/BLACKLINES/EN LA VIDA/NIGHTLINES

Stay all night! Special room rate available if you mention IWD.

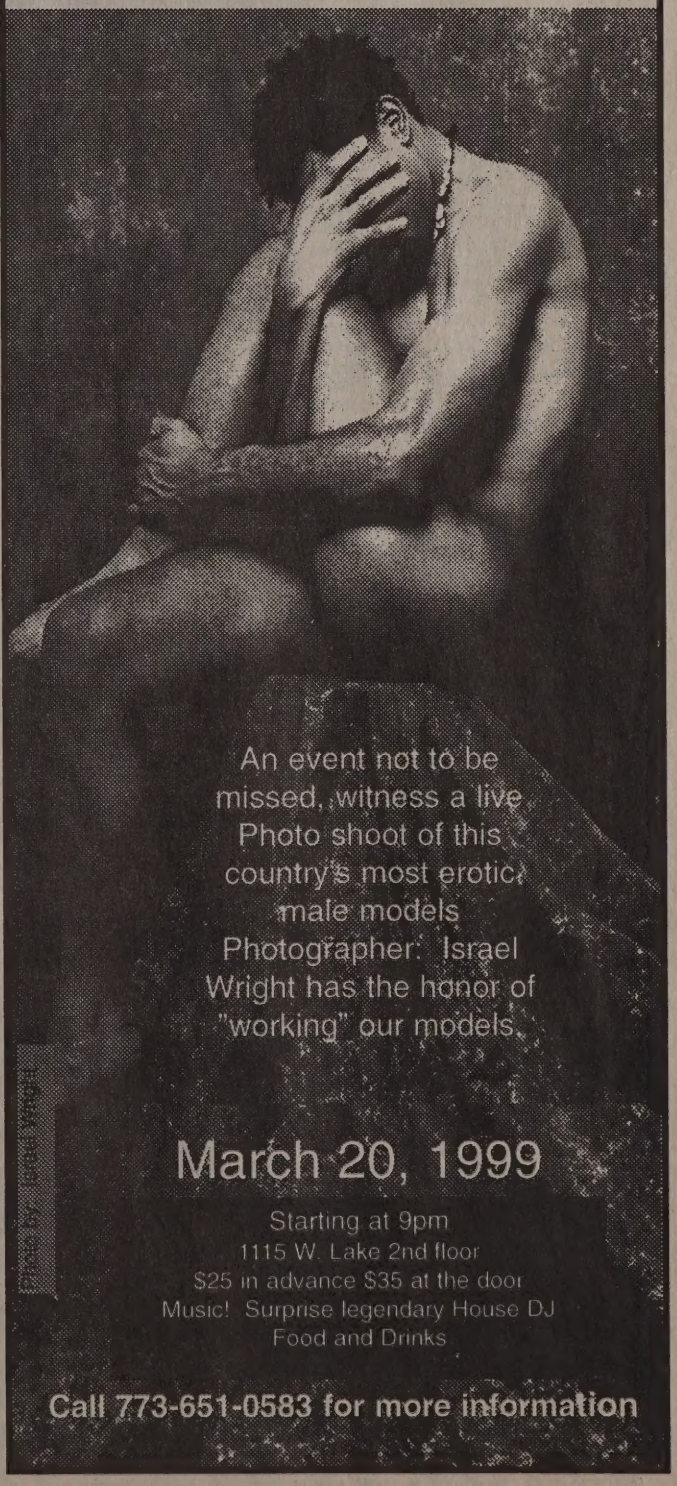
Johnathan Blackwell

and

Club Voltage Productions

Present

Le Session



An event not to be missed, witness a live Photo shoot of this country's most erotic male models Photographer: Israel Wright has the honor of "working" our models.

March 20, 1999

Starting at 9pm

1115 W. Lake 2nd floor

$25 in advance $35 at the door

Music! Surprise legendary House DJ

Food and Drinks

Call 773-651-0583 for more information

CALENDAR

Wed., Feb. 24

Chi Public Library celebrates Black History Month with free events thruout Feb @ every branch. Call local library for details. AND Harold Washington Lib branch presents exhibition, "Free at Last: A History of the Abolition of Slavery in America," thru Feb, free @ 400 S State. (312) 747-4999. AND Woodson Regional Lib presents "African-Americans of Achievement" film series; 10:30a, free. (312) 747-6900.

DuSable Museum *Down In the Delta*, dir Maya Angelou. 7:30p, $6 (mmbrs $4). @ DSM, 740 E 56th (773) 947-0600.

Guild Complex Musicality of Poetry Festival V!!–tonite, 5A Artists kickoff GC 10th Anniv "Ten Pak" celebration w/ poetry (by Arocho, Parks, Corwin, Foreman, Kirst & Young), music (by Nikki Mitchell, George Blaise, Jauqo III-X & Virus X) & art (by Ivan Watkins & Susana Sandoval); Mario hosts. 7:30p, $10 ($5 st/sr), no open mic. @ GC's Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. (773) 296-1268, x26.

HotHouse D-Settlement (pt of new Black Arts Collective, Marvin Tate's revue is multi-genre music/wds/groove) 8p, $5 (312) 362-9707.

Kindred Hearts Breaking Up Grp's 1st mtg of 6, $30 ($18 mmbrs), 7p @ 2214 Ridge Ave, Evanston, Ill. (847) 604-0913; KndrdHrts@aol.com.

LINKS Pride Youth Prog center for sexual minority youth seeks input on what services north suburban young gay adults want (ages 18-23). Focus/discussion grps 7:30-9p today & Mar 3 @ Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge, Evanston, IL. (847) 441-9880.

NewTown Writers open rdg (10" ea rdr), 7:30p @ Unabridged Bookstore, 3251 N Broadway. (773) 784-9015.

Northeastern Ill University Center for Inner City Studies hosts Black History Month events: today, "Community Real Estate Development in Bronzeville" seminar panel, noon; AND Af-Am Films/Video Festival, 1-3p; both free @ 700 E Oakwood (773) 268-7500..

Open Hand Chicago SouthSide Grocery Center needs volunteers to help provide food/nutrition services for ppl living w/ & significantly affected by HIV/AIDS; on West 75th near Vincennes. (773) 665-1000.

Roosevelt University Black Feminism Discussion Grp begins, 4th Weds, 4-5:30p, free. @ Roosevelt Univ, 430 S Michigan, rm 232.

Women & Children First notable lesbian-feminist belletrist (& mystery writer) Barbara Wilson 7:30p. 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

WTTW channel 11 PBS presents "Paul Robeson: Here I Stand–An American Masters Special" documentary on the famed Af-Am scholar, singer, actor, athlete, author, activist, & subject of House Un-American Activities Sub-Committee interrogation in 1950s. 9-11p.

Thursday, Feb. 25

Art Institute Black History Mo. events: today, ""Vocies from African: Minkisi–Powerful Objects to Harm or Heal," 12:15p, (312) 443-3600.

Chicago House & So Side Help host "There's No Time Like the Present" cocktail recep to debut David Cisko-designed ltd-edition watch ($25 ea @ event or Chi retail outlets), 5:30-7:30p, $20 @ New Gallery of Sawbridge Studios, (312) 642-0203, x223.

Color Triangle 1st "Leadership Forum: Taking a Stand Against Racism" 6:30-9p (invitation only). (312) 744-7911.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America participates in Salute to African-American Veterans, noon @ Daley Plaza (773) 752-0058

Girlbar Hysterical Women 8p

HotHouse dbl bill: Jim Baker, Steve Hunt, Brian Sandstrom & Francois Houle w/ Scott Fields & Jason Lee Roebke, 8p, $8 @ 31 E Balbo, (312) 362-9707.

Landfall Press artprints exhibit/sale benefits CHALK (Chi Art Link 4 Kids) & MRIC of Children's Memorial Hosp, 5:30-8p @ 329 W 18th St, suite 601. (312) 543-7008.

Wright College Natl Eating Disorders Day: free confidential screening 9a-1:15p, rm S101.

Friday, Feb. 26

Affinity "It's a Play Thang" food, fun & games. @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). Info/rsvp (312) 409-7609.

Art Instituteof Chicago lecture for Feb: "African American Art in the Art Institute," 12:15p, in Gallery 100. (312) 443-3600.

Chi Symphony Orchestra premieres *Hold On*: Symphony No. 3, by Af-Am composer Olly Wilson, plus Mozart, Copland, Dvorak (dir Wm Eddins). Tonite 8p, $7-30 @ Christ Universal Temple, 11901 S Ashland. (Also Feb 27 & Mar 2). Tix (312) 294-3000.

Film Center Chi premiere of documentary *Hallelujah! Ron Athey: A Story of Deliverance*. Athey is gay, HIV+, s/m bloodletting performance artist (312) 443-3737. Ask for other dates.

GLAAD recep w/ bd mmbrs Mary Morten, David Springer, commun rel dir Cathy Renna & LesBiGay Radio's Alan Amberg: 6-8p, $35 don incl yr's mmbrship. @ Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted. (800) 429-6334, x13.

Horizons Youth Grp hosts "House Party" (ages 14-23), 7-10p (773) 472-6469.

HotHouse The Funky Wordsmyths Anniversary Party 9p, $10 (312) 362-9707.

Howard Brown Health Center "Manifestations of Shame in Lesbian Lives: Clinical Implications," 2-4p, $20 pros ($10st). @ HBHC, 4025 N Sheridan. (773) 388-8904.

Hoxie's BBQ Downstairs: Jan Coleman, 8:30p, $5 don. @ (773) 989-4802.

Kindred Hearts Fri Nites Grp "Video Nite" 7:30p Evanston, (847) 604-0913.

Manhole RubberBall

OutWrite 1999 8th annual Queer Writers' Conference in Boston, Mass. Speakers incl Pratibha Parmar, Mark Doty, Barbara Smith, Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, (Chicagoan) Achy Obejas, Amber Hollibaugh, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Timothy Liu, Craig Lucas, Karla Jay, Samuel Delaney, Jewelle Gomez, Eric Orner, Ann Bannon, Sarah Schulman, Michael Bronski, *et al*! 100+ panels & wkshops. Boston, MA. (617) 262-6969.

Rails @ the Prop House Fridays: tonite, Producer/DJ Ralphi Rosario, Bernard Johnson B-Day Celebration (Rails founder & promo). $5 admit w/ BLACKLINES ad. @ 1675 N Elston, (708) 802-1705; ChocolateCityUSA.Com.

Temptations Cathy Richardson Band 9p. 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park, (847) 455-0008.

T-PAN (Test Positive Aware Netwk) "98 into 99 Bar Crawl," @ SPIN. $2 @ door, get yr "Crawl Card" stamped this month 2 qualify for prizes–& benefit TPAN. @ Belmont & Halsted. (773) 404-8726.

U of C Children's Hospital "Friends Against AIDS Gala" w/ cabaret singer Julie Wilson, Four Seasons (773) 702-3853.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Art Institute Black History Mo events: today, "Behind the Lions Family Day" 12:30-3:30p in Kraft Educ Center; AND Lecture Series: "Art of Central Africa: Tradition & Transformation," w/ Columbia College Chi art historian Kate Ezra. 1p, Morton Auditorium @ (312) 443-3600.

DuSable Museum *Mahalia Jackson: God Give the Glory*, (773) 947-0600.

GLAAD offers trng services & tech assistance prog "MediaEssentials" conudcted by GLAAD's Cathy Renna; in partnership w/ GLSEN/Chi. Incl media strategy, intervu techniques, media pro panel disc. Today or Sun, 9a-5p @ DePaul Unviersity, McGaw Hall, 802 W Belden. (847) 568-3682.

Horizons Community Services "The Real Chat Rm" Sat discussion series: today, "105. *Ellen* vs. *Will & Grace*: What Does Being Out on TV Really Mean?" 10a-noon, $8, pre-reg requ. @ 961 W Montana. Info/rsvp (773) 472-6469.

HotHouse Amnesty Intl reception 6-9:30p; AND Beau O'Reilly hosts evening of "not-so-folk songs"10p, $8 @ 31 E Balbo, (312) 362-9707.

Hoxie's BBQ Downstairs: History of the Blues prog for kids, w/ Shirley Coleman noon-4p; Jan Coleman performs 8:30p, (773) 989-4802.

Star Plaza Jazz Explosion, w/ Will Downing, Gerald Albright, Vesta & Phil Perry

Sunday, Feb. 28

Art Institute "Janice Harrington's Trunk Tales," 111 S Michigan (312) 443-3600

Film Center Chi premiere of Lisa Lewenz's & Ella Arnhold Lewen's poignant film diary of one German-Jewish family *A Letter Without Words* (312) 443-3737.

Kindred Hearts Lesbians After 40 Grp goes to Babes & Blades @ Footsteps Theater, 5230 N Clark, 2p. KH @ 2214 Ridge Ave, Evanston, (847) 604-0913

Queer Beat Science Dance Party Ethnically & 'genderistically' all-inclusive! Resident queer DJs Bathsheba & Gigglebyte spin hip-hop, drum-n-bass, R&B & house music. 2nd & 4th Suns 10p, $2 don. Twilight, 1924 W Division. (773) 342-4633.

Rainbow Families Family Health Seminar @ Howard Brown 3-5p. (630) 585-3920.

Star Gaze Trish Alexander Jazz Trio. (773) 561-7363.

Monday, March 1

Autonomous Zone Kathy Kelly (fr Voices of the Wilderness) speaks *against* sanctions on Iraq this week, (773) 252-6019. AND Anarchist Study Grp discusses LGBT-quer lib wrtgs, 7p @ A-Zone, 2012 W Chicago, (773) 338-9624.

DuSable Museum Educational Cinema Series Mar 1-31: Mon-Fri: 10:30a *There Are No Children Here*, 12:30p *Safire & the Slave Girl*, 2:30p *Four Women*; Sundays 12:30p *Mz. Medusa*, 2:30p *Dreadlocks & the 3 Bears*, 3:30p *Warriors of the Rainbow*. Free w/ museum admit @ 740 E 56th Pl. Info (773) 947-0600, x336.

Horizons Group Art Therapy begins in Mar, w/ Debra Despit, LCSW. Details (773) 472-6469.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project holistic Stop Smoking Grp for lesbian & non-lesb women, (773) 561-4662.

Roseland Community Hospital discount mammogrphy exams thru March, for Women's History Month @ RCH, 45 W 111th; Monterey Health Assoc, 1701 W Monterey; & West Pullman Med Center, 12251 S. Halsted. (773) 995-3052.

Tuesday, March 2

WTTW Channel 11 PBS *In the Life*: "Black & Gay in the Age of AIDS," w/ Chicago focus incl BEHIV & a performance by *A Real Read*–Chi's own Af-Am ensemble using humor, drama & dance to address gay issues & HIV/AIDS prevention in community; also "Bisexuality 101" looks @ issues & misconceptions separating bis fr both straights & gays; "Transgendered musicians" fr jazz to classical to heavy metal; Wisc US Rep & 1st openly gay non-incumbent ever elected, "Tammy Baldwin goes to Washington"; "Stop Kiss" looks @ rivetting new Public Theater (NY) play; "Crossing Lines" re lesbigay inclusion in ethnic parades; and introducing a new series, "out artists SPEAK OUT"–one-minute segments fr Kate Clinton, Quentin Crisp, & Pamela Sneed. 11p.

Wed., March 3

Dignity/Chicago Lenten Soup Supper, disc of Deepak Chopra's "7Spiritual Laws of Success." 7p, rsvp requ. Details (773) 296-0780

Guild Complex "Poets Across the Generations IV" features Chet Long & Chris Stewart plus screening rare video w/ Haki Madhubuti & Chet Long; Quraysh Ali Lansana hosts. 7:30p, $7, $5 st/sr (no open mic). @ Chopin Theater, 1543 W Division. Info (773) 296-1268, x26.

LINKS Pride Youth Prog center for sexual minority youth seeks input on what services north suburban young gay adults want (ages 18-23). Focus/discussion grps 7:30-9p @ Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge, Evanston, IL. (847) 441-9880.

Thursday, March 4

Affinity Healthy Women series 7p @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). (312) 409-7609.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America meets 7p @ Ann Sather's 929 Belmont. (773) 752-0058

Radical Faeries of Chi March Hare's Feast of Fools Cabaret, Fausto Fernos hosts evening of music, dance, poetry, witchcraft, communism & all-rnd anti-sociality, w/ Jennifer Trowbridge, Selene Carter, Marianna Buchwald, BRenda CArdnas, Asimina Chremos & Aunt Wilma as Voice of the Crystal Skull. 9p, $5 don, free pkg in rear. @ Big Chicks, 5024 N Sheridan. (773) 784-3397.

Friday, March 5

Affinity Financial Freedom wkshop by D Lisa Powell 7-9p, $10 @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). (312) 409-7609.

UIC PRIDE & Office of Women's Affairs co-host "gurrls nite out one" w/ The Prescriptions pop-punk band, 8p, free @ Cornucopia, CCC. Info (312) 996-4424.

Saturday, March 6

5th Chicago Intl Women's Day Conf "Building a Global Women's Movement" 9a-3p @ Chicago-Kent College of Law, IIT, 565 W Adams. Details Melinda (773) 278-6706

10th International Women's Day Benefit Dance 1999 Sisters around the world celebrate–in Chi, w/ DJ Sheron, dancing, appetizers, cash bar,

more detailed calendar listings in Nightlines, and online www.suba.com/~outlines/

craft bazaar. 8p-2a, $20adv/$25door Congress Hotel, the Great Hall, 520 S Michigan. (773) 509-6881.

DuSable Museum *Princess Tam Tam* (1935, 77"), starring Josephine Baker; shot ptly in Tunisia; French w/ English subtitles. 2p, (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois natl grassroots LGBT equal rights campaign March 21-27, organized here by IL Federation for Human Rights: today, a pre-event, "Bisexuals for pre-EBAH" Kick-off Dinner, (312) 458-0983.

Horizons Community Services "106. Are Plastic Pecs the Answer? Sexuality for Gay Men: Is there too much focus on the physical?" for men only. 10a-noon, $8, (773) 472-6469.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children a dynamic duo, Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie. 7:30p @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster. (312) 409-0276.

Unison Lesbian & Gay Singers & Aria "Twixt Heaven & Hell" spiritual spring concert, (773) 404-9242.

WTTW Channel 11 PBS "BeeGees: 1 Nite Only" 8-10p.

Sunday, March 7

Big Chicks 3rd Customer Potluck Dinner. (773) 728-5511.

MACT-Chicago (Men of All Colors Together) potluck brunch on north side, spec gues Ofcr Mike Perdue Noon-4p, $5. (773) 989-8072.

Sister Sense m'ly open mic for women fr all walks of life, 7p @ Mad Bar, 1640 N Damen, (773) 227-2277.

Women & Children First Artemis Singers perform 4p. @ 5233 N Clark.

Monday, March 8

DuSable Museum "The Harriet Tubman Children Theater Series" thru Wed, 10a-noon, (773) 947-0600, x336.

International Women's Day Building a Global Women's Movement: March & Rally noon today @ Federal Bldg, 220 S. Dearborn, info (773) 866-8181.

Tuesday, March 9

Northeastern Ill University Women's Music Day for Intl Women's Day: 5500 N St Louis (773) 794-3042.

UIC PRIDE & Office of Women's Affairs co-host Robyn Ochs, EdM, lecture, "Bisexuality, Feminism, Men & Me" 2-3:15p, free; aND Ochs-led wkshop, "Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals: A dialogue across difference, 6-7:30p, free. BOTH @ Rathskellar, SRC. Info (312) 996-4424.

Thursday, March 11

Affinity Lez Chat–topic, Basic Massage & Sexual Play, w/ Pat McComb, 7p @ 5650 S Woodlawn (garden level). Info/rsvp (312) 409-7609.

Women & Children First 5 mmbrs of Chi Women's Liberation Union–described in new *Feminist Memoirs: The CWLU c. 1969-1976*– Diane Horwitz, Estelle Carol, Sue Davenport, Jenny Knauss & Micki Leaner form panel; moderator Paula Walowitz intervus & promotes dialogue/disc. 7:30p. @ 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Saturday, March 13

Arie Crown Theatre Gladys Knight, The Temptations

Balm In Gilead (NY-based HIV/AIDS org.) Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, thru Mar 13. 888-225-6243; www.balmingilead.org.

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays general mtg 10a-noon, (312) 409-4917.

Chi Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal "Music for Mumia" fundraiser to help free Philly journalist/activist & former Black Panther sentenced to death after being shot by/allegedly shooting a Philly cop. Performers incl Ernest Dawkins, David Boykin, All NAtural, Black Earth Trio, Sister Tambourine; silent auction, raffle & adbook. 8p, @ 31 E Balbo. (773) 204-0686.

DuSable Museum *The Women of Brewster Place* (1989, 180"), starring Oprah, Jackee Harry & Cicely Tyson; dir by Donna Deitch (*Deserts Hearts*). 2p, $3. (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois "Gay & Lesbian Alliance of Decatur Monthly Social," 7:30p in Decatur, IL; Ellen Meyers & Alicia Obando speak on HB474 & EBAH. (217) 422-3277

Horizons Community Services Center annual Human First Gala! Human 1st Awd s to late Andrew Boxer PhD, Rev Gregory Dell, Vernita Gray. Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom. (773) 472-6469, x222. **AND** "The Real Chat Rm" Sat discussion series: today, "107. Breaking the U-Haul Cycle: Can Women Just Date?" for women only. 10a-noon, $8, pre-reg requ. @ 961 W Montana. Info/rsvp (773) 472-6469.

UIC PRIDE & Office of Women's Affairs co-host "gurrls nite out two" w/ drummer Big Smith & singer/guitarist Melissa Ferrick (of Lilith Fair fame), 8-10p, free @ Agape House, 1046 W Polk St. Info (312) 996-4424.

Sunday, March 14

South Suburban Sisters "Interested in mtg yr lesbian neighbors? Grp now forming, Info Linda (708) 460-3202.

Wed., March 17

DuSable Museum *Mixing Nia*, 7:30p, $6; (773) 947-0600, x336.

Thursday, March 18

The Fabulous Lypsinka Show! 8p @ Park West, (312) 559-1212.

Friday, March 19

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois natl grassroots LGBT equal rights campaign March 21-27, organized here by IL Federation for Human Rights: today, pre-events: "Pre-EBAH Kickoff Rally @ Daley Center Plaza" noon-1p (NGLTF's Kerry Lobel, Mary Morten, Rick Garcia *et al* speak, Windy City Perf Arts & Church of Open Door choral concert, GLBVA vets' wreath-laying), (773) 477-7173; AND "Community-Wide Happy Hour" 5:30-? @ SPIN, 800 W Belmont(co-sponsors CPNA, G&L Chamber of Commerce, Chi Gay & Lesb Bldg & Trade Pros, LesBiGay Radio), David Kulawiak (847) 869-7753 or (773) 545-3800

Women in the Director's Chair 18th Intl Film & Video Festival thru Mar 28, such progs as "Homegirls" (Chi-area artists), "Dyke Night," & "Youth-Made Videas"; this yr specially highlights Latina film/videomakers, plus important body of wk abt human rights campaigns fr women's prisons of Calif to legacy of Pinochet in Chile. Venues HotHouse, SAI Film Center (773) 281-4988.

WTTW Channel 11 "The Puerto Ricans: Our American Story" 8p.

Saturday, March 20

Affinity Forty Plus meets 4-6p @ 5650 S Woodlawn (312) 409-7609.

Bailiwick Arts Center & A Real Read, Chi's Af-Am lesbigaytrans performance ensemble, "All Out: A Festival of Black Gay & Lesbian Plays" by Dr Shirlene Holmes. Today: *A Lady & A Woman*

Ubaka Hill March 27 at Mountain Moving, and also see March 27-28 for drumming workshops.

chronicles the love affair of 2 Af-Am women in a small Southern town in the 1890s–Miss Flora Devine is an innkeeper, healer & midwife; Biddie Higgins is an itinerant butcher. A humorous & moving drama in 2 acts, dir by Mary Morten; w/ Ronda Bedgood & Catherine May. Today & Apr 3, 3p; Sun Mar 28 & Apr 11, 7p. 1229 W. Belmont. (773) 883-1090.

DuSable Museum *The Long Walk Home* (1989, 95"), starring Whoopi Goldberg. 2p, $3. @ 740 E 56th Pl. Info (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois today, pre-event in Springfield, IL, 6-9p covered dish potluck followed by prog on participating in Lobby Day @ State Capitol. @ Faith Eternal MCC, 304 W Allen, Springfield; hosted by Bro-to-Bro (B2B) & Springfield Area Lesbian Outreach (SALO), (217) 525-GAYS.

Horizons "The Real Chat Rm" Sat discussion series: today, "108. What's It All Abt? Spirituality" (773) 472-6469.

Howard Brown Health Centers & Harambee Wellness Center Volunteer Training 1515 E 52nd Pl. Dwayne (773) 752-7867

Johnathan Blackwell & Club Voltage Prods "Le Session" Lambda's own Israel Wright does photo shoot, works these super-erotic male models; music, surprise legendary House DJ, food/drink. 9p, $25adv, $35door. @ 1115 W Lake, 2nd fl. (773) 651-0583.

n~trigue prods grand opening of newest addit to metro lesbian lifestyle! Hosts Chef Tania & Les Femmes Amies (ex-*Paris Noir*) offer 2-for-1 cover b4 11p, fabulous buffet, free raffle (cash prize), dinner/dancing. 9p-3a, $5 cover, 21+ valet pkg Uncle Tannous Restaurant, 2626 N Halsted. (773) 333-9725.

Sunday, March 21

Bailiwick Arts Center & A Real Read, "All Out: A Festival of Black Gay & Lesbian Plays" by Dr Shirlene Holmes. Today: tale of a bond betw a gay black & his best friend, an institutionalized straight woman, *Tray & Deborah* (dir Terry Cullers; w/ Christopher McMorris & Shannon Sudduth); the beach-blanket dream of a physically challenged black gay, *A Little Thing Abt A Body* (dir Terry Cullers; w/ Derrick Anthony) and th' bawdy sistah's toast story, *Peaches* (dir Mary Morten; w/ Shannon Sudduth). Today & Apr 4, 7p; Sat Mar 27 & Apr 10, 3p. @ 1229 W. Belmont. Tix/details (773) 883-1090.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois Dignity hosts Educational Prog 6p, Catholic Mass 7p, reception following, all focused on EBAH theme. 6-9p @ Broadway United Methodist, 3344 N B'wy. Details Joe Flint (773) 296-0780.

Sidetrack "The Ultimate Oscar Party" to benefit AIDS Alternative Health Proj & NAMES Proj Chi; (773) 561-2800, x11.

Monday, March 22

WTTW Channel 11 "Great Performances: Dance in Americva: A Hymn for Alvin Ailey" Judith Jamison choreographed this legacy/tribute to Ailey, her trailblazing predecessor now an Af-Am & dance world legend. 9p. AND "Shaker Heights: the Struggle for Integration" 11p.

Wed., March 24

DuSable Museum Triple Feature Nite! incl *Black Women Directors, Toni Morrison: Profile of a Writer,* & *Black Women in Films;* discussion follows, 7:30p, $6 (773) 947-0600, x336.

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois Rally and Lobby Day for Passage of HB474 to amend IL Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation. Buses depart Chicago 7a from IL Federation office, 3444 N Halsted. (773) 477-7173.

Thursday, March 25

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois (773) 477-7173 for event info.

Friday, March 26

Howard Brown Health Center "Reflections in the Mirror: Transference & Countertransference Issues in Therapies w/ Lesbian & Gay Clients," 2-4p, (773) 388-8904.

Roseland Community Hospital 75th Anniv black-tie Community Awards Dinner-Dance; WGN-TV's Merri Dee hosts; Hyatt Regency/McCormick.

Saturday, March 27

Affinity Ubaka Hill Drumming Wkshop, sliding fee, (312) 409-7609.

DuSable Museum *A Woman Called Moses* (1978, 200"), story of Harriet Ross Tubman, starring Cicely Tyson in "brilliant" historical portrayal. 2p, $3. @ 740 E 56th Pl. (773) 947-0600, x336.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children drummer Ubaka Hill, 7:30p @ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster; (312) 409-0276. (Chem-free space; no boys over 2; call ahead for ASL interp.) Hill will also offer 2 drumming wkshops: sign-up/info Toni Jr (773) 769-9009.

Sunday, March 28

Kindred Hearts Ubaka Hill Drumming Wkshop @ 2214 Ridge Ave, Evanston, IL. Details Toni Jr (773) 769-9009.

Tuesday, March 30

Equality Begins @ Home Illinois reg monthly mtg, GLSEN-Chicago mmbrs write "Equality Begins @ Home AND AT SCHOOL Action Plans," personal goal-oriented commitments to bring EBAH msg to local school bds. 7-9p @ Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N Lincoln, details Matthew Stuczynski (773) 907-9142; email stuczynm@nttc.org.

WTTW Channel 11 PBS presents "Facing the Truth w/ Bill Moyers" on South Africa's Truth & Reconciliation Commission 9-11p.

Wed., March 31

DuSable Museum *Alma's Rainbow* (dir Ayoka Chenzira), 7:30p, $6 @ 740 E 56th Pl. (773) 947-0600, x336.

VOLUNTEER
HELP WANTED

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in our community and to meet other people. We need your help in the following areas:

▼ ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ▼
daytime or evenings, we need all types of help.
▼ SPECIAL EVENTS ▼
Human First Gala, Pride Dance '99, Bar Nights, Have fun and be seen by thousands!

▼ ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT
▼ LESBIAN & GAY HELPLINE
▼ OLDER ADULT PROGRAM
▼ PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES
▼ YOUTH SERVICES

Program volunteers receive special training. Start the process now!

Interested? Have questions? Ready to start? Call Amelia Lopez at (773) 472-6469, ext. 222

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES
Chicago's Lesbian & Gay Community Center

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE

Ubaka Hill

Saturday, March 27:
Ubaka Hill

An extraordinary drummer, Ubaka will bring down the house. In addition to appearing in concert, she will also hold 2 drumming workshops. If interested in signing up for one of the drumming workshops, please contact Toni Jr. at 773-769-9009 or at ToniAJr@aol.com.

ALSO: **March 6,** don't miss the return of Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie.

1650 West Foster
Ebenezer Lutheran Church
Women & Children Only. Suggested Donation. 312-409-0276

Theatre

Previews/Opening Nights
*** Gay/les/bi/queer/trans content/interest

Feb 24/25: **Genesis: The Continuing Story** (opens Feb 24) beginning w/ stories of Joseph in rotating repertory w/ musician Michael Miles' one-person show **The Magic Banjo** 773 878-9761

Feb 26: Slaughter City Unflinchingly inspects working conditions and conditions of the soul in a not-fictitious-enough slaughterhouse, asks whether the 20th century labor union movement actually improved conditions or spun into the unions' own interests, not worker rights Theatre Sch, Depaul U. 312 922-1999

Feb 27: **Ev'ry Time I feel the Spirit** by David Barr Staged reading and discussion. First African American singer to appear at the Metropolitan Opera, in 1939 acclaimed contralto Marian Anderson was a national symbol of Civil Rights when she was denied the right to sing in Constitutional Hall because of her race, Chicago Dramatists 312 633-0630

Mar 3: **Tales of Assimilation and Segregation** Struggles, choices, circumstances that create sense of belonging in a community. Stories on Stage w WBEZ and Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago 312 397-4010

Mar 4: **"excuse me..."** Conceived, written, directed by Sabrina Harper. First encounters leading to lifelong friendships, just anecdotes, just a bitter taste in the mouth, or just a dark memory. Annoyance Th 773 728-4111

Mar 7: **The Grandma Tree** winner of the Theodore Ward African-American Playwriting Contest. Remembering the traditions that matter, an old woman instills pride and belonging thru ritual. Columbia Coll. 72 E 11th 312 663-1600

*** *Mar 11:* **Bluebeard** Ludicrous, sexually charged comedy; a mad scientist's plot to twist science and nature by the creation of a third human genital. His island is littered w/ sexual misfits, all botched experiments. Author Charles Ludlan died of AIDS related pneumonia at 44. Victory Gardens thru April 17. 773 871-3000

*** *Mar 12:* **The New Show** AHA!'s satirical look at politics, sexuality, and pre-millennium life. Sketch and improvisation create Pinky the morbidly obese hamster, bitchy Queens and Helen Beauchamps, the smart-shopping lady. Peek into the future with gender-bending super-heros. Comedy, suspense, music, sexual tension and relief. The gay and lesbian troupe for everyone. AHA features Michael Hampton, Abby McEnemy, Todd Milliner, Mary Buckley, and Jamie Cutbirth, directed by M.T. Cozzola, Thru April 17Bailiwick 773 883-1090

March 13: **The Artists Formally Known as Oui Be Negroes**, new social political satire mixing classic sketch comedy, long form improvisation by African American Improvisational/sketch comedy group responsible for *All Coons Look Alike to Me.* New Turnaround Th, 773 274-4563

Mar 15: **Oo-Bla-Dee** World premiere of Regina Taylor's work. Saxophone/trumpet player travels to St. Louis to join Evelyn Water and the Diviners, an all black, all female Bebop band. Trouble is, no one told Evelyn and she doesn't like surprises. Captures the lives of black women jazz musicians, struggling to define roles in music, loves, America. Thru April 17 Goodman 312 443-3800

In Performance

The Abesha Conspiracy Multimedia work tells of Joseph, a newly married Afrikan-American man, on first trip to Afrika. Thinking he's ready to experience "Mother Land", gets rude awakening on difference between the Afrika in his mind and the one before him. Ma'at Production Association of Afrikan Centered Th, Victory Gardens Studio 773 324-0757

Blues Like black music which provides its inspiration, blues is smoldering, passionate celebration of beauty, richness, fragility of extraordinary moments in ordinary lives. UIC 312 996-2939

Chicago's Golden Soul Musical celebration of producers, songwriters, artists who propelled Chicago 60s-70s soul music, recording industry here into national fame. Black Ensemble open run 773 769-4451

*** **Danny Bouncing** A lovestruck LA playwright, Danny tries to win back his girlfriend despite slightly illegal diversions created by his out-of-control, out-of-work actor friends, including prank instigating gay friend Doug. Thru Feb 28 Victory Gardens 773 871-3000

Elvis Presley was a Black Man Rock 'n Roll extravaganza w/ a story untold until now.Directed and choreographed by Jackie Taylor, thru March 28, Black Ensemble Th 773 769-4451

Fortunes of the Moor Othello's secretly born son, custody battle between his African family and the Venetians. Thru Feb 28. ETA Creative Arts Foundation, Inc. 773 752-3955

** **How I Learned to Drive** Lesbian playwright Paula Vogel's '98 Pulitzer winning sympathetic portrayal of young woman remembering uncle whose driving instruction led to a darker relationship. Thru March 7, Northlight 847 673-6300

Train is Comin' Based on story of founding of Fisk Jubilee Singers in 1800s. Thru April 18 Chicago Th Co, Parkway Playhouse, 500 E 67th St 773 493-5360

Wang Dang Doodle (The Life Story of KoKo Taylor—Queen of the Blues) Her life, history of women in Blues. Black ensemble theater's premiere production starring Queen Roy as Koko Taylor,Rick Stone, Linda Lamar, Gary Wilson. Black Ensemble Th, 773 769-4451

*** ***You Are Not Here*** Neo Mondo Solo '99 performance series featuring Neo-Futurist Women. Rachel Claff, *Why2K*; Anita Loomis, *Travel F(r)ictions*; Stephanie Shaw, *A Proper Dragon*; Diana Slickman, *Falling.* 773 275-5255

DANCE

*** *Mar 10:* **Alvin Ailey American Dance Th** thru Mar 14 Auditorium Th, 312 902-1500

Mar 19: **Muntu Dance Th** *Life Moves: A Tribute to Alyo* Dance salute to founding artistic director, part of the '99 Spring Festival of Dance 773 602-1135

ART/PHOTO

African American Cultural Center Dell Washington, paintings. Henry Jones *On the Edge*, 312 996-9549

*** **Aldo Castillo Gallery** *The Visible Soul Series* digital photos by Helena Chapellin Wilson of Venezuela 233 W Huron 312 337-2536

Art Institute of Chicago *Masterpieces from Central Africa: Selections from the Belgian Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren*, 312 443-3600

The Dusable Museum of African American History New: Sundays Free.Also *Harold Washington In Office*, permanent exhibition, w/ composite office setting; memorabilia; personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th and Cottage Grove Ave 773 947-0600

Time & Life Bldg Rebecca Childers Caleel new sculptures including *Pharaoh Akhenaten* bas-relief bronze w/ silver nitrate patina thru April. 630 887-1919

Woman Made Gallery *Conflict/Resolution* fourteen female, male artists in all media. 1900 S Prairie 312 328-0038

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS

UNITY V

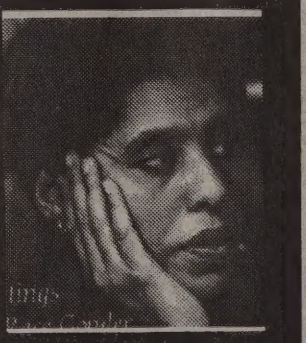
Unity V is the annual community conference for lesbigay/trans people of African descent in Chicago and the Midwest. Unity V allows the Black lesbigay community and our allies the opportunity to examine the events and important life issues that affect us. We'll also hear dynamic and powerful nationally known speakers assess the state of affairs for lesbigay/trans people of African decent.

...And Still We Rise: Visions Toward Our Future

Friday, April 16
Saturday, April 17
and
Sunday, April 18, 1999

HYATT REGENCY
McCORMICK PLACE
in Chicago

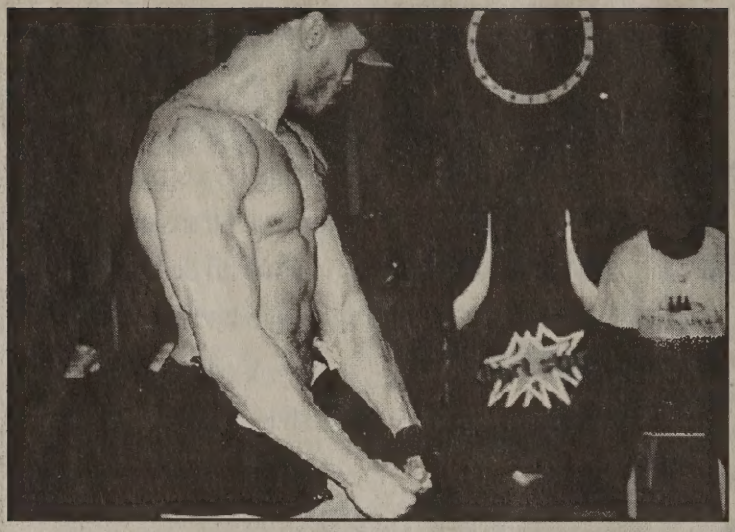
For Organization Information and Registration, phone 312-409-4917

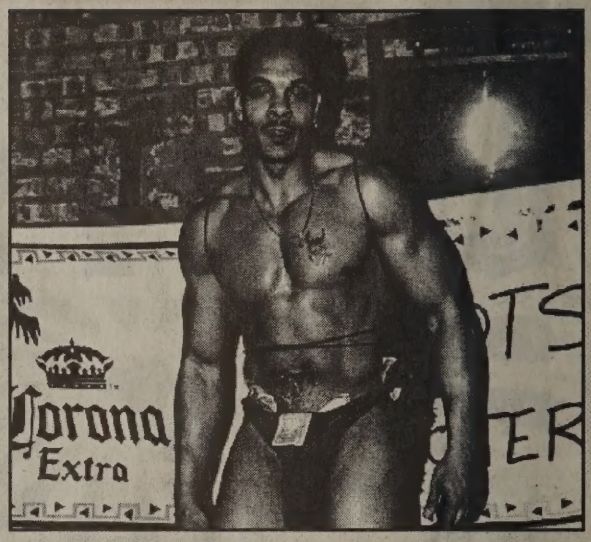


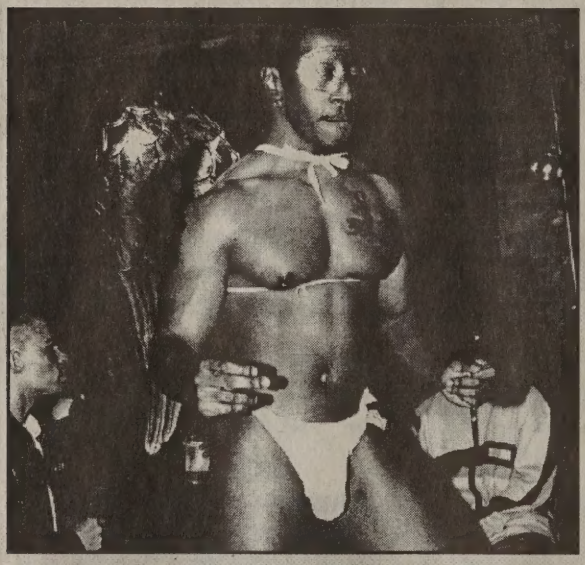
Barbara Smith,
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

OTHER KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

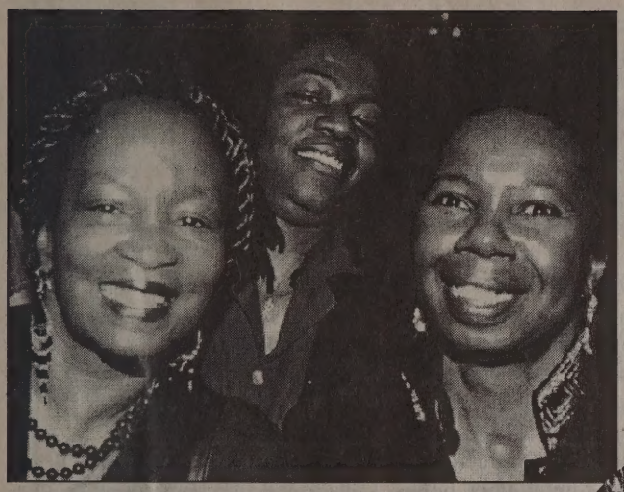
CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS, PO Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181







A page for the guys ... top left from The Vix. Top right and middle pics from the Rails. BELOW: from Cellblock's recent leather weekend. Photos by Israel Wright



Pat's 50th

Chicago party girl extraordinaire Pat McCombs celebrated her 50th birthday in style, and hundreds of folks turned out for the affair. Pat is pictured CENTER, surrounded by just a few of the people partying in high style. Photos by Israel Wright

Author bell hooks on Living and Writing as a Strong Black woman

by Samantha R. Mattox

Feminist writer bell hooks appeared before more than 1,000 people to sign her new book, *Remembered Rapture: A Writer at Work* Jan. 27 at Harold Washington library. The auditorium at the library held 385. The remaining audience watched her via a television in another room.

Remembered Rapture addresses how race and gender shape the work of a writer. hooks, the author of 17 books, is a professor of English at the City College of New York. She tackled the issues of homophobia, sexism, drugs, and AIDS in the Black community, from questions asked by audience members. Some of hooks' most notable works are *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*, her first book, and *Bone Black*, a confessional work about her childhood.

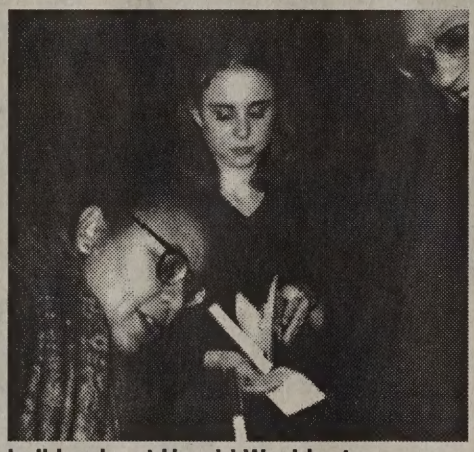
She said her critics accuse her of writing the same books over and over again, but she responded that we must remember the time when Black voices were rarely present in literature. "People would get in my face and say, 'Why do you write so much?'"

hooks answered the question in her preface: "I respond, 'Why do you write so much Virginia Woolf?'" Woolf established herself as a modern British fiction writer during the late-Victorian era when there were few women novelists. She wrote *A Room of One's Own*, which dealt with the needs and rights of white women.

"Virginia Woolf was not able to imagine Black women coming into writing naturally," hooks stated. She added that Black women have come to writing through the suffering of our ancestors.

"I was raised in a world where many of the Black men and women around me couldn't read and write," she said.

Writing provided hooks with the ability to reach people across race and different paths in life. She uses storytelling to accomplish this. "A personal narrative," she said, "allows them a point of intrigue."



bell hooks at Harold Washington Library, signing her new book. Photo by Samantha Mattox.

hooks also interconnects spirituality and a sense of responsibility to the Black community in her writing: "I am deeply concerned about the collective healing of Black people."

This author uses personal narratives to examine broader issues in the Black community, however, she admits that this has changed her relationship with her family. Her mother said: "I guess I can't say too much or she will be writing about it in her book."

hooks answered questions from the audience dealing with her works as well as other writers' works and social issues. When asked about Angela Davis' recent book *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*, hooks admits that she was not moved by the analysis in the book, but she did feel that the lyrics cited were interesting.

A Black female university professor asked hooks for advice about how to avoid the exhaustion of battling conservative bureaucracies of college administrators. hooks answered, "Universities, as by their natures, are conservative." She also said that Black universities are just as conservative as white universities.

She was also asked questions about her two wider-read books, *Bone Black* and *Ain't I a Woman*. In *Bone Black*, hooks looked at "language as a body of suffering." She said, "Literature does not function as a healing place . ... When I set out to write, I don't intend this book to be healing."

Ain't I a Woman, she said, challenged her to where she needed to go. Nevertheless, hooks is still awed by the messages in the book. "Sometimes I read a paragraph, and I'm still moved," she told the audience.

Despite some members of the Black community's reluctance to embrace feminism, hooks said that she receives positive letters from Black males who are interested in stopping sexism in the Black community. She even hopes that a "revitalized feminist movement" will reach out toward teenage boys. "Boys are hungry about masculinity that will nourish them in deep and meaningful ways."

To illustrate the harmful effects of sexism and gender roles, hooks used the example of her nephew. She said he hardly speaks and as he gets older he will hardly show emotions. This is perceived as masculine behavior by society.

hooks found the book *Nappy Hair* by Carolivia Herron inappropriate for Black children because of its signifying message. "Signifying also has a dimension of shaming in it, and shaming has a way of being dramatic." She said that *Nappy Hair* was not a "Black liberatory book."

In the end of the book, the young female protagonist triumphs over those who humiliate her because of her looks. "We are not always triumphant," hooks said. Painful experiences in our childhood take a lifetime to recover from, she said.

On the subject of homophobia, hooks said that she noticed a "deep, profound homophobic discourse" among her nieces and nephews. Her nephew did not want to say that his best friend was his best buddy because he did not want to be seen as gay.

hooks used this discourse to introduce the discussion of AIDS. hooks said that Black gay men are afraid to tell their families they are gay because of the stigma of homosexuality. She said that this silence leads to the continual rate of HIV infection in the community.

She also discussed the treatment of children in our society. She said that our society is too "heavy handed" in disciplining children and that we should learn to discipline children in non-physical ways. hooks even said the

children's books inaccurately depict Black children as having a hard life. "Little children's faces start looking old and tired," she remarked about the images of Black children. hooks recommended children stories written by Maya Angelou and Nikki Giovanni for positive images of Black children.

When asked about her views on capitalism, hooks said, "I don't know about capitalism but greed is going strong." She stated that poverty takes on a worse dimension with drug addiction. She cites greed as the main source of drug addiction in a capitalist society and that greed is the genocide of drug users.

hooks also said that retired Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan is an icon of capitalism who portrays the attitude of "I can't never get enough." Jordan, she said, is a symbol of global capitalism. Although capitalism is a source of oppression for Black people, she stated, "Black people have been very supportive of capitalism."

hooks also said that leaders such as Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam are not only pro-capitalism, but pro-patriarchy, which promotes male-headed households and denounces homosexuality. She said that if white people really feared him, he wouldn't be alive. hooks also said that his ideas have more commonality with conservatives than with her ideas.

Even one of the "divas" of feminism has writer's block occasionally. One of the best things to do with writer's block is to "ease up some," she said. She said that easing up unleashes creative powers.

"We've got to have that same type of tenderness in writing," she said.

hooks interconnects a link with her ancestor's spirit in her writing—bell hooks was her grandmother's name. hooks' real name is Gloria Jean Watkins. She uses bell hooks in lower case to take away the intimidation that prestigious names bring.

hooks believe that all good writing comes from a still place.

"Be still so you can come correct," hooks stated.

Want to be a writer? Want to speak out about being a Black Woman or Black Man?

BLACKlines is featuring two very special issues this year.

May is our "Women's Issue" and July is our "Men's Issue"

Write about how it feels to be a Black Lesbian, a Black Gay Man, a Transgendered man or woman, a Bisexual ... whatever comes from your heart.

Suggested topics: HIV and AIDS;
Friendships between lesbians and gay men;
Transgender Issues;
Racism in the Gay Community;
Sexism;
Interracial Relationships;
Political Activism;
Substance Abuse;
Dating in Chicago;
Longterm relationships;
Finding a Man/Finding a Woman;
Family Values;
Interracial Friendships;
and MUCH MORE!

Deadline: March 30 for women's issue
May 15 for men's issue. Length: 500-800 words
Call LaJaunessee (773) 871-7610 to let her know you will be submitting articles.

Types of submissions: Columns, News articles, Interviews, Poetry, Cartoons, Art or Photos

How to submit: FAX (773) 871-7609; e-mail outlines@suba.com; or BLACKlines, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657.

Make sure to include your full name, address and phone.

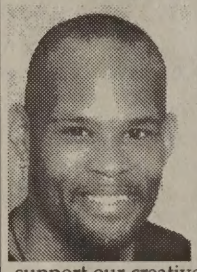
All published pieces will be paid for.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Underground Techniques

DJ Harry T

Taking the time to reflect how long I've been contributing to this magazine, I have been truly blessed to write and nurture my creative skills, meet new and exciting people and have someone say "I read your article and enjoyed it!"



So I say Thanks to you, the readers of this magazine who continue to support our creative expressions to entertain and educate our community. Thank you to Tracy Baim for the existence of this publication. Thank you K.L. Glover and the entire Word Rising ensemble for embracing my skills and talent and continuing to help me grow as a proud individual. Thanks also to Fredrick Dunson, Jano, J And Ralphi Rosario for your continuing support as well.

Enough of the shout outs and on to the grooves that makes us move. The Twisted camp is on full tilt, ready to drop the bomb with the 12' release of "Body" and the single/album "Star" by the Funky Green Dogs. The tracks offer some tasty offerings such as: "Can't Help It," "Tomorrow," and "Discotek." Be sure to add this to your groove collective. Danny Tenaglia will also be releasing his third single Feb. 23, "Turn Me On," featuring the hot vocals of Liz Torrez. That's all I am able to uncover on the label scene at this time. Next feature will be more detailed and focus on great CD compilations.

DJ Harry T Top 5

1. Feel You (Mark Grant rx) - Julius Papp & Dave Warrin
2. Removable Tattoo - Sade
3. Viva Fiasco - Johnny Fiasco
4. Ooh, I love It (Love Break) (Full Intention rx) - Salsoul Orchestra
5. Body (Club 69 rx) - Funky Green Dogs

Hear Again

by Jano

All of this time, I thought I kind of understood how Native Americans felt about people appropriating their culture and rewriting their histories. I've always thought the emblem for the Blackhawks hockey team looked majestic but out of respect of Native Americans, I've never purchased Blackhawks teamwear.

One day I was surfing the radio and

landed on what I thought was WVAZ or V-103. Then a voice came on and informed me that it was 103.5, Jammin' Oldies. My body immediately had a reaction to that word, *Oldies*, and it wasn't good. I continued to listen, though, as they cranked out hit after hit. Then I waited for the live dialogue. The false cadence the radio personality spoke in said *I may or mat be African-American, but I most certainly try not to give it away on radio.* Maybe I'm being a little too harsh, allow me to back up.

We in Chicago, me in particular, are very possessive of Black Radio. When I travel to other cities, one of the first things I look for is a radio station that plays music by African-American artists, informs me of where my people will be congregating that weekend, plus a bit of chit-chat to help clue me in on their social/political climate. African-American radio has been a *virtual* community since we were *colored* and it was called *race music* by whites in the industry.

The kicker is WUBT (Jammin' Oldies 103.5) is owned by the same station (Chancellor Media Corp.) that owns V-103 and WGCI. There are very few African-American owned stations left. Although, 103.5 does play hits, you probably will never hear a song by the Isley Brothers, Roy Ayers, Cameo (not *those* kind of hits), it's what *they* say hits are (or those more easily identified by their target audience ...).

Listening to 103.5 reminds me of being the only African-American at a party and people keep asking my opinion about Jesse Jackson. It feels like an outstretched hand, to give *them* five, behind some stale joke. It feels like someone watching my every move, logging it, testing it with a marketing firm to see how much it can be resold for on Wall Street. It feels like cultural molestation.

I have gotten used to radio personalities who talk to me, like Herb Kent, Bonnie DeShong and Irene Mojica. I embrace the community calendars that keep me in the know. I like the strolls down memory lane, the music and the history these radio personalities can provide for me, unscripted, because they have been a part of it.

Maybe I shouldn't be so disgusted by Jammin' Oldies, after all, Chancellor Media Corp. is still letting me *have* V-103 and WGCI.

Our music is our history ... and so was our radio.

| soul journal | by j.

| Common/MeShell/Teena @ Congress Theater | When I first caught wind of this "hush-hush" event, my reaction was "What?! I'm there!" The mostly Black crowd was refreshing, especially since this wasn't a hip-hop concert. Style included Dress-To-Impress, Why Bother and Where Are We Going, Again? All varieties of sexual orientation were boldly in attendance for an interesting mix. This is what happens when you throw a free concert featuring diverse musical acts, one of them an open lesbian/bisexual. Unfortunately, the too-much-of-a-good-thing element eventually proved true as hordes and hordes of the fabulous (and fabu-less) crammed their way into the aging Congress. There were lines to get into the theater, lines for drinks, lines for the bathrooms (at some point, women began using the men's room). One "entrepreneur" even set up a small table in the men's room to hawk weed. DJ Twilite Tone spun great tunes during band changes, although I would have preferred he play them a little longer than 30 seconds, each. But perhaps the most disappointing thing was the *sound*. Really, without good sound, what good is a concert? I remember seeing Grace Jones at the Congress and she sounded great. But a live mic and DAT is a bit different than a full live band and the sound tech seemed to have a problem getting the mix right for the expansive theater acoustics. This was most evident during MeShell's set, when way more than once the crowd listened to her say "Anhmm mphh dmmg ghh" or *something*. Who knew? **| Les Nubians — *Princesses Nubiennes* |** British and French soul has consistently contributed some great artists in the past two years, many of them "Black." Joining French artists Teri Moïse and Sinclair, are these two sisters from Bordeaux, France with their addictive debut. The back of this CD reads, "Les Nubians mix sultry, jazzy grooves with smooth hip-hop, sprinkled with sampled hints of exotic African influences." I can't describe *Princesses Nubiennes* much better than that, except to say that each track is well-crafted and sung with harmonic beauty (think: Zhané in French). The bass of the first track, "Demain (Jazz)," immediately pulls you into the CD. Other gems include "Makeda," "Sourire" and "Désolée." If you are wary of music not sung in English, this is a great one to break you in. Practically flawless (including the hip-hopped cover of Sade's "Sweetest Taboo"), you owe it to yourself to pick up this release. **| The Roots feat. Erykah Badu — "U Got Me" |** If you haven't seen this video, you will. An imaginative, albeit disturbing, piece transforms a routine shooting in the hood into a memorable meditation, complete with enigmatic Ms. Badu elegantly cooing the chorus even during the brilliant drum n bass metamorphosis and revelation at video's end.

A Real Reads Takes on the Works of Playwright Shirlene Holmes

by Robert Schultz

Shirlene Holmes says her first "pride" play, *A Lady and A Woman*, was "conjured." The play came to her, Holmes explained, and later when she went back to research some details about the piece, which is set in the 1890s, she found that many of the details were authentic. *A Lady and A Woman* is one in a series of Holmes' lavender plays that will be featured in the *All Out Festival* jointly produced by A Real Read and the Bailiwick Arts Center. *A Lady and a Woman* is the working-class love story of Flora Devine, an innkeeper and midwife, and Biddie Higgins, an itinerant butcher. This is the first time a collection of Holmes' gay-oriented work will be performed in a festival setting. Three additional works penned by Holmes, *Tray and Deborah, A Little Thing About A Body*, and *Peaches* will be featured in the series.

After reading an article written by Holmes in the BLACK THEATER NEWS about the difficulty of getting African-American companies to do plays with lesbigay/trans themes, Byron Stewart, co-founder of A Real Read, sought her out. Stewart reviewed nearly a dozen of Holmes' plays before making the selections that will be performed for the festival. Holmes started writing plays while in college when she couldn't get the rights to the play *Zora* by Lawrence Holder. She wanted to perform it during Black History Month, but the piece was in production at the time. In a fit of "piss and vinegar" she wrote a one-woman show about Sojourner Truth. She performed her *Ain't I A Woman* for many years. Holmes is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where she teaches speech, theatre, and African-American studies. Holmes has a doctorate in speech from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, so her appearance in Chicago will be a bit of a homecoming. Holmes is a 1997 recipient of the Nancy Dean Distinguished Playwrighting Award.

"That person who is next to you on the train, or the person who is serving you food," is more interesting to Holmes than the "kings and queens" and hence are the subjects of her plays. Holmes likes to craft characters that audiences can identify with and "cheer on." Holmes enjoys giving a voice to the disenfranchised. The drama of being "Black and female" also feeds into her writing. Holmes, a lesbian, also said, "living lavender" influences "writing lavender." Although she has a body of work that departs from gay themes, it is her "lavender" work that is bringing her notice.

Holmes is currently working on a play based upon the

Holmes

writings left behind by a young Bi-racial Black man who committed suicide while in his 20s. Some of the issues addressed in Holmes other plays include labor justice and incest. Holmes believes that drama is an important way to get audiences to examine the world around them. Mary Morten will direct *A Lady and A Woman*. Ronda Bedgood and Elizabeth V. Shivers will performe.

Tray and Deborah is about the bond between a gay man and a straight woman. Terry Cullers will direct and Christopher McMorris and Shannon Sudduth are featured actors.

Terry Cullers will direct *A Little Thing About A Body*. Derrick Anthony is the featured performer. A disabled Black gay man's dream about involvement with one of the beach's hunks forms the basis of this work.

Mary Morten will also direct *Peaches*. Peaches, featuring Shannon Sudduth, is a bawdy tale about a brazen Black "sista."

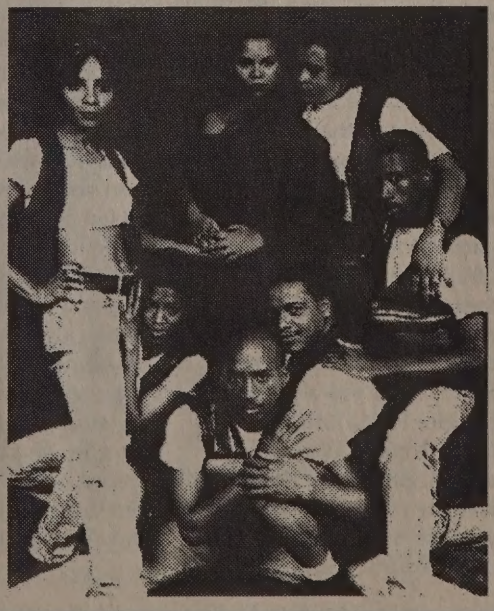
A Lady and A Woman will be performed March 20 and April 3 at 3 p.m. The play will also be performed Sunday, March 28 and April 11 at 7 p.m.

Tray and Deborah, A Little Thing About A Body, and *Peaches* will be performed on March 21 and April 4 at 7 p.m. The plays will also be presented March 27 and April 10 at 3 p.m.

For ticket information call 773-883-1090.

'A Real Read' on TV March 2 on WTTW

A Real Read, Chicago's African-American LesBiGayTrans Performance Ensemble, will be on the national gay and lesbian TV show *In The Life*. The program taped A Real Read in Chicago in January. The episode air in Chicago on WTTW-Ch. 11 Tuesday, March 2, 11 p.m. BE-HIV, an Evanston-based HIV and AIDS organization, is also profiled on the episode. Mary Morten, Mayor Daley's liaison to the lesbigay community, is interviewed.



Black Pearls

by Sukie de la Croix

Excerpts from an interview with Chicago drag legend Ebony Carr ...

In the 1960s ...

"I started performing after I won a drag contest at Finnie's Ball. I was a nursing student and I was in JET magazine, and a few other magazines, and one of the fellows who worked at the hospital took it around at work and was showing it, 'Do you know who this is?' Back in those days it was a heavy scrutiny being gay and being a male nurse, and once they find out you're a transvestite or something like that, that made it even worse. So here I am with all these roses and a crown on my head, and I was so embarrassed that I dropped out of nursing school. I couldn't write my mom and dad, who were back in Michigan, that I dropped out. I had to work because I needed the money, I was staying at the Lawson Y ... you can imagine! ... where all the students in those days would stay.

"I went down to Sparrows which was owned by Chuck Renslow and that was a fabulous bar. I won a contest that night, Halloween night, and I asked him if I could be part of a show and he said OK. It was a small show then, Robey Landers hadn't come back to Chicago at that time, and so when Robey came back I was a part of her Hot Pants Revue, with Jackie Knight, Wanda Lust and Virginia Slim. Robey was the one to tell you, 'If you listen to me, follow all of my instructions, you can go anywhere and work.' Which was very very true. I got offers and worked all over the country. On stage I did a lot of Shirley Bassey, I always wanted to be a very sophisticated type of cabaret singer like Eartha Kitt ... I used to do that at the Blue Angel in New York afterwards. Basically, I stuck with Blues, or cabaret songs—which I still do now—very soulful songs; I'm known as Socially Yours Ebony."

A Sparrows ad from The Paper, July 1972.

The Baton ...

"I worked at the Baton, in fact I worked with Felicia when she first started, when the Baton was right on the corner, then she sold it and moved and it became Sundays. It was seedy, but when you have a gay bar and female impersonators, people look for the seediness and that goes with it; the gay thing and entertainment and cabaret, always had to have that element of seediness. That's what the draws were; you would see people in Mercedes, in Lincolns, on bicycles, walking, and those were the people that came, from all walks of life."

Arrested ...

"I've been arrested twice in Chicago. One night at the Chesterfield, and back in those days you had to have two parts of male clothing on and still to this day, no matter how many panty-hose I have on, I still wear men's underwear. First of all they would take you down to harass you, well Afro as being Black Is Beautiful, I'd comb my little hair up and when they told me to take off my wig I still looked like a Black woman. I kept my earrings on and went right on. The police liked me back then, they were never really bad or mean to me, or brutal or anything. Some of the other Queens they would. Maybe because I never got smart with them, I always talked rather intelligently, I never flirted with them or anything like that."

Racism ...

"Early on in the contests, no matter how unattractive and un-effeminate a white guy in a blond wig would be, he was always placed higher than the Black kids or the Puerto Rican kids. And that went on for a long time until the Black is Beautiful thing, when we started getting our Diana Ross' and our Shirley Bassey's, where you had natural women of color that were considered very glamorous."

David's Place ...

"David's Place was the forerunner of Felicia's Baton, and they had gorgeous lighting and we did show productions from Broadway plays. So we put a different edge on the art of female impersonation, not just things you see on TV but we did classical things like *The King And I*."

Pearly Mae ...

"I remember Pearly Mae, in fact I used to go to the Night Life and watch Pearly, and he was one of the foremost Black entertainers on the North Side. He was No. 1, a really big headliner. In the heyday Pearly came first, then we had Cappucine who was really a beauty, she worked for Felicia. Pearly Mae was like myself, we didn't have any augmentation, hormones, silicone, or anything like that, and so the audience could identify with you, because when it all comes off you're a guy like everyone else."

Final message ...

"Tell them Ebony Carr is still alive and kicking ... "

Memory Check: David's Place (5232 N. Sheridan), Sparrows (5220 N. Sheridan), Night Life (933 N. State St.s), Chesterfield (2831 N. Clark).

Send your stories to Sukie de la Croix at BLACKLINES. He also interviews over the phone or by e-mail sukie@wwa.com

COMING OUT OF DARKNESS:

Reflections and Revelations

by Sanford E. Gaylord

It's amazing what you can see when you come out of darkness. When you allow yourself a moment to reflect back on how far you have come in your life. My journey has taught me that life is full of lessons. The rewards are even more profound when you realize that the trials and tribulations of battle are worth it in the long run.

Someone once asked me if I thought my life would be any different if I weren't HIV+; would I have achieved the things that I have thus far in my journey if I never tested positive. My first thought was what a wonderful world it would be without HIV. I then thought that I would probably be dead with the many things that I was doing at the time. Then I remembered what my big brotha Larry once said, "There are no coincidences." I still must say that testing positive for HIV was the best and worst thing to happen, almost 10 years ago at this point.

As a same-gender-loving HIV+ African-American man over 30, I've had to face a great deal of loss in my life, just as many women and other individuals regardless of race or serostatus. There have been times where I have written articles and wondered *"why on earth should I tell people this?"* I must admit, I wondered if anyone was even getting the messages that I was trying to convey. In any journey, our travels will encounter pain, pleasures; sorrows; scars and loss—the feelings are universal. We all are haunted by something at one point or another within our lives.

I have gone inside of myself and come out screaming. In the process, I have been able to heal some of the scars that I was riddled with inside by writing and telling a bit of my journey, this tour of battle with HIV. The light is so bright now that I have learned to love myself and come out of darkness. I have had the pleasure of responding to brotha's and sista's in person and out of state. They told me that they could relate to what I was writing; that I was telling their story too. The letters that I have received from readers have been humbling.

Public recognition for my work by The Chicago Association of Black Journalists last November and notification by the Greater Chicago Committee that I will be the recipient of the Black Kettle (Arts/Journalism) at the 5th Annual Bayard Rustin Awards have been a combination of validation and humbling.

Flashing back, it seems as though it was only yesterday that I wrote "The unwelcome news of Mr. Death, increased my sipping of vodka and sniffing of coke. They became my pastime. Leading me from my pain, my reality, and numbing me into my own slow suicide." Mr. Death for me is HIV. He can also be fear as well as a number of things that keep you from realizing your true potential.

The series of losses that I once endured lead me right back to that slow suicide once upon a time. Fortunately, there have been some very strong women in my life. Christine Perillo was one of the women that I wrote about with my first article that helped me start the healing process. She was my case manager when I came out of out-patient therapy for HIV/Substance related issues, still scared of life. She helped me recover myself as well as discover myself without being under the influence. Over the years, she has been like a mother, a sista, and a true friend throughout my journey with HIV. I am honored to call her my friend.

Being the recipient of such prestigious awards, I thought of what I could possibly write about. I recently came through a dark moment of writer's block after losing my father.

I have gone inside of myself and come out screaming. In the process, I have been able to heal some of the scars that I was riddled with inside by writing and telling a bit of my journey, this tour of battle with HIV.

Having him for such a short time in my life and then only in my third decade of life. True friends will always be there, they told me that all I can do is be true to myself as a writer and allow others to see that there is life after diagnosis if you claim it for yourself. Gaining knowledge and purpose for yourself along with self-love are the greatest weapons against all odds that may befall you. My tour of battle has enabled me to become "Old Wine in a New Bottle."

What has been worrying me are my sista's. Every day, over 7,000 people are infected with HIV. The haunting reality is that almost half of them are women. As HIV runs rampant through our communities, we must realize that the battle for many is not over. This is going to be a very long war that will affect almost every human being on this planet.

My sista's not only have to worry about HIV, they must also worry about Breast and Ovarian cancer. Many sista's who have been the backbone for many people and families are also haunted. Beautiful women, with wonderful wit and elegance, are haunted by trips for yet another chemotherapy treatment.

We can help heal one another by telling our stories and teaching our stories both verbally and in writing. We are all warriors in some form or another waging war to survive on this planet. We don't need to be a tribe of warriors trying to find home when there may not be a home to come home to.

There's still a lot of darkness to get through.

A good friend of mine once said "We are responsible for leaving our communities and the world a better place than we found them. Both in our words and in our deeds." Let's cause a rippling effect of love and knowledge for our people, for our selves.

Ache'

Poetry

I Find You
In A Subtle Search
For Definition,
Carry You Into My Dream.
Hope Whisper Encouragingly
Beside Me,
In My Sleep.
I Capture
Your Moving Sound,
In Awe Of Your Dance.
Your Awareness
Above My Reach.
Wishing It Would Fall
Into My Arms.
Waiting For A Gift
Of Destiny,
The Blessing
Of Purpose,
To Bring Dreams To Life
This Affair
To A Dream.

— Larry Duckett

GURLLLology 101 thru 401 Academic Networking

by Vicky Nabors

I was pleased to hear lots of positive feedback about this column from many sistas who attended Pat McCombs' birthday party. As I stated in my introductory column, I would like this space to focus on issues and experiences of Black lesbians who are either college students or just thinkers, as in, lifetime intellectual and personal growth. My invitation is still open to anyone who would like to submit a short article to share as a guest writer.

THIS COLUMN IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION! Lol. Yep! I'm an Internet nerd. Computers are quickly becoming a strong element in our public and private world. They will soon impact every avenue of our lives, so we better become friends with them. A prime example of this phenomenon is the current Y2K problem where computers can't identify the year 2000; this could affect every household in our country. Change is often frightening and difficult to accept but historically we can see how technological advances have forced our society to comply or lose out. Those who fight the system are now finding themselves left behind in job stability, earning potential, upward mobility, etc. Heck, with the continuous downsizing of corporations, a person can expect to switch jobs several time during their years of employment. This is the primary reason why Black women must prepare themselves to compete, confidently, in the vast job market of our ever-changing technological world. Remember, the equality war is an ongoing battle for Black Americans and women; thus we must arm ourselves. Over the last ten years, I've obtained as many computer skills as my patience and tolerance would allow. My reward basically is

connected to the word 'self-confidence,' thus I am now a product of that in which I speak. Later for that, "she's just a big mouthed woman stereo-typing garbage." It really freaks me out when a college student tells me that she can't do e-mail or use a word processing program, that's not cool, ask someone to show you the way. ASK! Come on yal, get on those computers and conquer them as if your life depended on it.

My guest writer, Yvette, is back to share a campus coming-out experience and the development of her 'gaydar.'

The year was 1993 and I was transferring to a new University because I had had it with my previous school. I was 21 soon to be 22, and wasn't interested in hanging out and partying. After a semester, I met some new friends and joined a sorority. I found it amusing when my sorority sisters and I talked about who was cute, who wasn't, and who was gay. But, I often shied away from the topic of who was gay because I feared the label would fall on me.

There were a few guys on campus that everyone thought was fine and I would say, "He is so GAY." Yep, at that point, I wouldn't think twice about outing a guy, but I would never out a female (probably because I hadn't seen any stereotypical-looking lesbians). I enjoyed feeding into that 6th sense, which I later learned is called 'gaydar' by the lesbian and gay community.

After a year at my new University, I realize that I could no longer suppress my feelings for women. So, I believe that all of the people and experiences that I came across helped me to develop into the person I am now. As I look back upon my Undergrad days, I realize that my gaydar was under-developed and that outing guys wasn't the coolest thing to do. My coming-out experience via my campus life was quite interesting and, of course, today my gaydar has become more refined. Actually, it was due to this newly developed sense that I identified and met a new friend at work. It is good to meet like-minded lesbians to socialize with, but you can't always tell who is in the life and who isn't, so be careful.

Replies to vlnabors@neiu.edu or Lambda Publications (BLACKLINES), Vicky Nabors, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

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In Dreams

by d.l. sanders

Everyone fantasizes. Some picture money. Others think of love. It is human nature to dream about better things, it is part of human nature to want better out of life, not just for yourself but for your friends, family and the ones you hold dear. Lately I've heard a lot of people put down people's fantasies saying that dreams are foolish, that they are a useless waste of people's minds. They think everyone should remain in reality and relate to life in its true form.

I think those people are missing the point of dreams.

I don't think I would have made it through the last few years of my life without my fantasies. They have cradled me through the good times; they have carried me through the bad times. My dreams have been my lifeboat, when I was tired and could not swim through the murky waters that life consists of. I am so proud of my dreams, because in dreams, I release all the tension that surrounds me everyday, that and a massage from an excellent masseuse.

I have this dream that I walk into a room filled with interesting enough people. I was looking extremely dapper. I am dressed in a pair of Khakis and a black-collared shirt, with half boots. I had just shaved my head, so it was shining, not too brightly mind you. I didn't want to blind anyone. I walk in the room and begin to greet the people I recognize, walking directly for the bar. I had to have my Southern Comfort and 7-Up. The people on the dance floor are swaying to the music. It is overpowering the room. I have my drink in hand and I turn and there he stands. He is about six-feet tall, and he is dressed to kill. His eyes glimmer as he speaks to a beautiful woman standing near an open window. I can not move. I am unable to walk. He turns and his smile brightens up the whole environment.

He looks right at me. I smile back at him. Then he begins to move at me. I turn to see if it was I, or if he was coming for someone behind me. There is no one there, except the bartender. He stops right in front of me, looks me in the eyes and orders a drink. I am crushed. I stand there and my head falls down. Then he begins to strum my pain. He speaks. "So you were looking at me," he says. I turn and he takes my drink, sits it down and leads me to the dance floor. As I lean into him, every ounce of my body is trembling. "Shhh," he says, "you're in my arms now." The voice of Lauryn Hill, to everyone else, was singing, "The sweetest thing I've ever known, was like a kiss on the collarbone. The soft caress of happiness, the way you walk, the style of dress."

I look up in his eyes, after I realize I could not remember what he looked like. The only thing I had was his eyes and his smile, but no clear picture of what he looked like. I could not make out his face, just feel his hands on my back. "Who are you," I ask. He looks down at me and runs his hand over

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Leather Scene

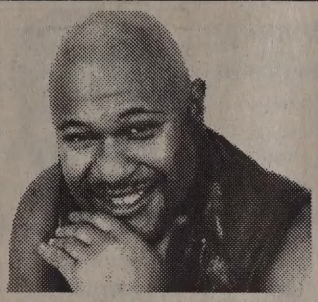
by Cain Berlinger

It is with sadness that we accept the resignation of Andre Marcials as Mr. Ebony Leather 1998 due to personal problems. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

The judges for Mr. Ebony Leather have been chosen and they are: Graylin Thornton, former International Mr. Drummer; Tom Stice, Mr. Southeast Drummer; Ryan Goldner, International Drummer boy; Mufasa, former Mr. Cellblock and IML finalist; Meryl of the NY Noose; Vi Johnson, Pantheon winner and Leather Archives spokesperson, activist and author. Waiting for confirmation is Mr. Baltimore Eagle. Frank Nowicki and Queen Cougar will be the MC extraordinaires for the event.

There is still an open call searching for an opening musical or dance act to complete the festivities at the Cellblock May 27 at 8 p.m. This year's event will benefit the Leather Archives and Museum ("located in Chicago, serving the world"); the goal is to raise enough money to purchase a brick toward the new building, increasing the representation of people of color in the community.

Last month's Mid Atlantic conference saw the continuing tradition of the Chicago ONYX group's cocktail party that gets bigger and better every year! We look forward to their contribution to this year's Ebony Leather Contest. The last day of the conference saw the presentation of the Black Men In Leather manuscript, presented to Joseph Beam, executive director of the Leather Museum and Archives.



February is the designated African History month, and it's time for us to make history. One way to do that is to increase our visibility by showing our commitment to the community, a theme I never get tired of promoting.

Being a title holder means 'bottoming' to the community for the duration of your title term. Being a title holder means reaching out as a role model to a generation of men and women who are dealing with issues of sexuality and inclusion. It means showing up for fundraisers and representing your title to the best of your abilities. It's not important to be super buffed or a Shamar Moore look-a-like but being judged by your knowledge and commitment to the community and making your voice heard as the represenative voice of your constituents. This is why it is so important to enter these title contests, it's all about representation and getting out of the community what you put into it. It's one thing to bitch and moan, another to put yourself on the firing line to adopt change.

Putting together events and getting the word out about our community's diversity is a hard job. There are many title holders of color out there, as well as like-minded events all over the country highlighting diverse contributions to our communities. If each and every one of you would send me the names of these title holders and community leaders of color I would like to personally highlight them and relevant events to the POC community.

Former International Ms. Leather, Jill Carter, initiated the Unsung Hero award, and I would like to add to that tradition by introducing to my readers, the many Men and Women of color who are making a difference as people of merit willing to make a difference.

Send comments suggestions to writercain@aol.com

Thy Cup Runneth Over

Suicide is not the answer!

by Lynnell Stephani Long

In 1977, on a routine visit with my doctor, I was told I was sterile and could never have kids. I felt like my world ended then. I thought, since I could never have kids, what was the sense of living? I wanted to die! I went home and swallowed over 100 tablets of the medication I was prescribed for hypothyroidism and hypoadrenalism. When I passed out, I had what can only be described as a divine intervention. A woman came to me and told me it wasn't my time to go. She told me she had a purpose for me. I argued with her that my life wasn't worth living because I was sterile & confused about my gender. She kissed my forehead and said, "My child, you still have so much more to offer the world. You have sight and hearing. You can walk when so many others are stricken to a wheelchair." When I woke up I was sick for days, but I was alive. I guess I am sharing this event with you to let you know it does get better.

It frustrates me to write an article like this, mostly because I sometimes live in a fantasy world where no one commits suicide anymore. In

my world suicide is not even an option. The truth is suicide is not fictional. But, is suicide a Black thang, a white thang, or both? Be honest. How many of you truly believe no Black person would ever commit suicide? It is probably that thinking that caused many Black and white LesBiGayTrans teens to feel uncomfortable talking to anyone about their suicidal tendencies. What happens then is they harbor their true feelings and become depressed.

Recently, while checking my e-mail, I received a letter from someone informing me that another girl (Trans) committed suicide. The person that sent me the e-mail thought the girl was a friend of mine. I did not recognize her screen name, but that didn't stop me from calling almost everyone I knew to ask them who this girl was, and was she from Chicago. It turned out she wasn't from Chicago, but that didn't matter. What mattered was someone took their life because they felt alone, threatened and unsafe in this society.

I found out what happened to the girl was she was in the midst of a divorce. Her wife threatened to take the kids from her and never let her see them again. Because she was Transgendered, she felt no court would grant her visitation. Cases like this are very real. Someone that is a friend of mine is going through the same thing. She has been fighting for divorce for over a year now. Her divorce, at one time, caused her to postpone

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What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Advice with an attitude!

Let's give 'em Somethin to Talk about ...

Dear Readers:

Dr. King's advice had the pulse of the nation in his heart! His words still ring as brazen truth especially in today's climate of conscientious stupidity. Sincere ignorance is not bliss readers. Sounds like a familiar problem, huh? How would you solve a problem in which misinformation was being given out? How do you spell relief to this problem? I spell it: R-E-A-D!!! How many of us have been listening to WGCI recently? There are more than a couple reasons to snap!! This homophobic station has continued to use the GLBT community as the butt of their stereotypical jokes including the "Brucey" character who is a ridiculous sex-crazed lunatic who sounds like a flaming Richard Simmons take-off! But that's another story.

However, another alarming incident happened recently on Saturday, Jan. 23rd at 3 p.m. I had the unfortunate experience of listening to the radio station as I was working out. The male DeeJay (whose name escapes me) elaborated about a listener who called in about an HIV "experience." According to the DeeJay, the listener went to a movie theater and bought refreshments. She found a seat and as she was sitting down, felt a poke. She rose quickly to find a hypodermic needle in her seat with a note which stated: 'Welcome to the World of AIDS.' I thought to myself, 'this story has remnants of the early 1980s AIDS transmission scare stories.' The story ended abruptly without the DeeJay clarifying if the listener had HIV testing or her current health status.

Furthermore, the DeeJay kept going on and on about how we must now take flashlights to the movie theaters and carefully get on our knees to examine our theater seats! 'WHAT?!? I know he's going to say more!' I said to myself, 'Calm down, he'll say something further, I'm sure.' So, I stopped working out and I stood there waiting for the DeeJay to mention how someone could protect themselves from HIV. I waited until he at least provided a referral number where someone could call to ask questions regarding protecting themselves from contracting this virus. However, five minutes had elapsed and still, he said nothing informative. After his comments, he just continued to play "the hits."

The painful truth was that this DeeJay reacted as if the HIV scare angle was a cute leeway into a commercial or another hip hop tune; a little joke between homies. The subject had been treated like it was the next sensational story that happened to come across his desk; a juicy piece of gossip that must be shared and laughed about instead of used as a tool to insight discussion. Unfortunately, another perfect opportunity was blown to have a frank discussion regarding HIV prevention in the African-American community.

Like Dr. King said, we all have a moral responsibility to be intelligent! It is my hope that the GLBT community begins to call people out on miseducation! As the second wave of HIV infection continues to rise disproportionally among African-Americans & Hispanics in the Chicagoland area, it's very crucial that we know the facts regarding transmission. It hasn't changed! I must admit that I have never heard of anyone getting the virus through sitting on a needle in a move theater!! However, allow me to be very clear: hypodermic needle pokes are certainly a major hazard! Some of us have experienced it and I am not trying to say it doesn't happen. However, I am stating that I think whenever the media reports an HIV story of this nature, they must also be responsible and give ALL the facts in the story. In addition, in this case a follow-up component to the story could have answered any other questions listeners may have had about the situation.

Whenever we hear such stories, we in the GLBT community must speak up!! Speaking honestly and openly is the key to staying healthy as well as correcting misinformation. WGCI may have benefited tremendously from some of our experiences. In my opinion, no one will deem our experiences and our lives but us. So, next time anyone tries to disrespect us and /or speak misinformation let's get real! Let's write/fax those letters to the media including the television stations or better yet flood the radio lines with phone calls! We are family & family that READ together, SUCCEED together!! Together, we can move mountains, readers!

Questions? Comments? By all means, let your voice be heard! E-mail me at PrestonMSW @ aol.com

R. Williams dies

The Yours in the Struggle Project mourns the passing of its founder-partner, Reggie Williams, in Amsterdam. His domestic partner, Wolfgang Schreiber, said Williams, 47, died peacefully in the hospital Feb. 7 of AIDS-related complications. Private memorials are planned Amsterdam and in his birthplace of Cincinnati; a San Francisco celebration of his life will be announced.

Reggie, an international HIV/AIDS and human rights activist, is best known as the founding Executive Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP), the first federally funded AIDS service organization focusing on African-American men who have sex with men. From its inception in 1988 to his retirement in early 1994, he led NTFAP with a combination of personal devotion to an ever-growing constituency; empowerment and encouragement of others to do prevention work in their own communities; and willingness both to speak truth to power when necessary and to work toward meaningful collaboration when possible. The demise of NTFAP in 1998, largely due to the mismanagement of those to whom he had entrusted it upon his retirement, was a bitter disappointment to him.

Forced by a draconian U.S. law forbidding the immigration of his HIV-positive partner to the U.S., Reggie moved to Amsterdam in 1994, where his relationship with Wolfgang entitled him to the benefits of Dutch citizenship. In 1995, he and former NTFAP media coordinator Al Cunningham formed the Yours in the Struggle Project to document and disseminate the largely overlooked story of the involvement of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender AIDS activists of African descent in the fight against the pandemic. In Amsterdam, his activism continued through Amnesty International and a local gay men of color organization, Strange Fruit.

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COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

ARTISTS AND HEALING ARTS Practitioners can have shared space at new North Side Urban Art Retreat location for $100 monthly rental membership. If you need a place to draw or paint, or a place to offer massage or talk therapy, call **(773) 275-1319.** Do you need meeting space or workshop space or to rent gallery space? Super affordable. *(3/99)*

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

HEY, LOOKING FOR A JOB, and need assistance? Home Based office with access to the Internet, will assist anyone for a small price of $10 for three days of search service. **CALL (773) 761-7067 FOR INFO.** *(12/98)*

HELP WANTED

PREVENTION CASE MANAGER for Horizons Community Services Youth Services Program. This full-time position includes conducting client intakes, co-facilitating youth discussion groups, reporting on our prevention program, working with youth of color, providing education to clients and serving as an agency rep. to community groups and organizations. Qualified candidates will possess a Bachelor's degree in Human Services or related field, minimum of two years experience in a youth program, background in HIV prevention, sensitivity to LGBT issues, strong oral/written skills. Bilingual/bicultural a plus. Please send a resume and cover letter to **Lance Toma, Dir. of Psychosocial Services, Horizons, 961 W. Montana, Chicago, IL 60614.** EOE. No phone calls please. *(3/99)*

THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER, the Midwest's leading gay, lesbian, and bisexual health center, has the following positions available:
OUTREACH WORKER (2 FT): Conduct outreach to high-risk populations to involve them in ongoing research projects with emphasis on under-represented populations, BA in relevant disciplines preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and organizational ability necessary. Demonstrated skills in community planning and development highly desirable. Experience with clinical research and HIV education beneficial.
COUNSELORS (2FT): Counsel research participants in behavioral intervention trial. Will conduct participant interviews and counsel participants in form of HIV risk assessments, risk reduction counseling and HIV pre and post-test counseling. Bachelors degree in clinical psychology, social work or relevant field required. Masters degree preferred. Excellent organizational and interpersonal skills necessary and ability to work with diverse clients and staff. Experience with clinical research and HIV education desirable. To apply: send resume to **Courtney Reid, Director of HR, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613, courtneyr@howard-brown.org or FAX (773) 388-8887.** Women and people of color are encouraged to apply. EOE. (3/99)

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PHOTOGRAPHY

BAD, BOLD, AND BLACK: For sampler set (8 men, 8 photos), send age (21+), signature, $10, to Zebra Studios, P.O. Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (Potential models welcome!). *(2/00)*

TRAVEL

GETAWAY COTTAGES in new Buffalo, Mich., 1-1/2 hours from Chicago. Near beach, restaurants, shopping. VCR/TV. 2 or 3 bedroom, fireplace, **(312) 287-2400; 1-800-44-ENVOY.** *(9/98)*

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALE-BOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $24/12 issues (hdcpy only). Malebox2@aol.com

ADULT SERVICES

PENIS, NIPPLE enlargement Professional vacuum pumps or surgical enlargement. Gain 1-3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. For FREE Brochures call: **Dr. Joel Kaplan, (312) 409-1950.** Latest enlargement information **1-900-976-PUMP** ($2.95 min.). e-mail us at www.drjoelkaplan.com *(7/99)*

BLACK-LINES is seeking **photo-graphers** to cover community events, clubs, sports, and more.

Call BLACKlines to arrange for an interview.
Professional experience not necessary.
Your published work will be paid for.
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Ask for LaJaunessee or Israel.

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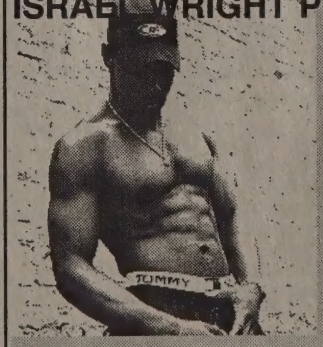

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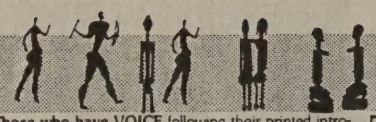


PERSONALS

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101. **To keep your free voice box active continuously,** you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.**WARNINGS: 1.** We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. **2.** Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

CODE: ISO = In Search Of

Men

B Transgendering WM, 43, 5'7", 185#, ISO BM, 30+, for sincere, loving, long-term relationship. All serious replies will be answered! **Voice 52807** *(5)*

Am a Black Male from Jamaica age 48. Seeking a relationship with a loving person of any race. Am a top, love sex, am very loving. **NLVoice 52805** *(4)*

40 year old Black male, 6", 190#, non-smoker, drug free and disease free, looking to develop a friendship or a monogamous relationship with a Black male or Latino male, age 29 to 47 years old. He should be drug free, disease free, and have a sense of humor. Not looking for one night stand. **NLBox389** *(4)*

Handsome BM 47, 5'11," 176#, interested in a goodlooking, good built masculine financially secure social drinker, BM 25-40. No drugs & no games. **NL387** *(4)*

True love, romance, passion, friendship, endless kissing and more. Nice looking Latino 27, 6', 150#. Expecting to find love with black, tall skinny guy, I'm not asking for much. Just someone real. Let's give it a chance. **NL391** *(5)*

Bottom GBM wanted. GWM 48 (boyish looking) 5'10"190# seeks bottom GBM/AM/HM 21-45 for sex buddy who also enjoys mutual JO, 69 and rimming. Smooth, cut a plus but not required. Not seeking relationship. Write **Tom, NLBox 377** *(4)*

Attractive, sensitive, independent, head strong 25 y/o BM, 6'1", 180#, looking for romance, affection and what ever happens, happens, from a BM who is masculine independent, with a loving heart. Versatile or top If this is you, write me. **NL379** *(3)*

Hispanics and Bears for SAFE encounters and friendship. A plus for heavy cummers. I'm Latino, passionate. I won't disappoint you. **NL 381** *(3)*

Bottom GBM wanted. GWM 48 (boyish looking) 5'10"190# seeks bottom GBM/PM/HM 21-45 for sex buddy who also enjoys mutual JO, 69 and rimming. Smooth, cut a plus but not required. Not seeking relationship. Write **Tom, NLBox 789** *(3)*

Fuck me! Let me suck your cock. BiWM novice looking for a good time. Age, race, unimportant. **NLVoice 52797** *(3)*

Creative tongue/throat massage. Northern travelers #Hwy 94 N to WIS. Well hung men-safe-sane regular service. **Voice52803** (3)

Tall attractive sensitive and easygoing GBM 33 years old seeks a relationship oriented 28-35 year old man to dazzle with all the romance within my heart... you must be free of drugs, diseases, and all major hang ups! Drop me a line...**NLBox 367** *(4)*

Sex, romance, hot top 5'9", 155# 25 y/o, Bi BM military discreet seeks slim/skinny bottom any race under 37 y/o **Leo Pager (312) 216-9101** *(4)*

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, e-mail or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Classified rates ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	$_____

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

WOMEN

Very attractive androgynous black lesbian ISO same for friendship and possibly more. Must be drug, alcohol, disease free, and single. Lt. smoker OK. Over 35, wt. proportioned to ht. Please no bi's, bi-curious or closet cases. Want to know more about me, give me a call. **Pager# (773) 226-1518** *(5)*

Happy Valentine, Babe. Dear P.S.S., I believe in love after love, with time! I always felt that we belonged together. Who would believe after 10 years we'd find happiness, love and peace within ourselves. So what do you say? Marry me and be my Valentine for life? **Love DMB** *(4)*

SBGF seeking SBGF for friendship first, slowly moving toward a foundation. Quiet time, movies, some outings, someone with passion, a caring heart of gold, age 33-47.

BLACKLINES CLASSIFIEDS

$10 one month

$27 three months

$51 six months

just $90 one year

(773) 871-7610.

Beeper (773) 441-7103 *(4)*

Sensual, dynamic, vibrant and creative, 47, SWF professional seeks woman for developing real relationship. Very attractive, active, animal lover. Meditative, spontaneous. Sense of fun the essence of connection for me. **NL/Voice52792** *(4)*

South suburban sisters! Are you interested in meeting your lesbian neighbors for social connections? **VM 708 403-3430**

Fun-loving, clean, cute, spiritual, non-smoking, open, employed, and oral woman ISO the same in a femme. No Bi's please. 35 or younger. To receive me as your blessing from above, please dial **(773) 226-9045,** press 2, leave your name and number and/or press 1 and leave your number.

Looking for a friend, GBF late 30's, attractive, sexy, intelligent, entertaining, and very fun loving. Enjoy too many things to list. ISO attractive feminine female over 5", non-smoker w/ similar interests & qualities to spend available time with...Status, age & race unimportant (let's talk)**NLBox 210** *(4)*

Happy Valentine, Babe. Dear P.S.S., I believe in love after love, with time! I always felt that we belonged together. Who would believe after 10 years we'd find happiness, love and peace within ourselves. So what do you say? Marry me and be my Valentine for life? **Love DMB** *(3)*

Petite BF (5'3", 124#) early 40s interested in younger AFs. Must be open, unattached, fun, uncomplicated...definitely sensuous. **Voice 52784** *(3)*

GWF 43, thankful for so much in my life, but looking for someone special with whom to share it. I love reading (especially newspapers and community newsletters), gardening (my special interests include creating "green space" in unlikely city spots, and prairie plants). I enjoy singing harmony and listening to classical/folk music. I play volleyball and especially enjoy women's basketball. I love the "human interest stories" that show perseverance and kindness. But I also love to find the hidden humor in situations. The most important thing to me is my faith and relationship with my Higher Power. I attend traditional Christian services and regular recovery meetings. I hope to meet a woman aged 35-50 who is caring, sincere, patient, tolerant and who enjoys the outdoors. I'm looking forward to a special friendship and more. Please n/s, n/d, light drinking okay. Northside Chicago but can travel. **NLBox 186** *(3)*

SBF 5'2" 120# 51 y/o stud. Intelligent honest, self-sufficient, fun-loving, loves Horror, Sci-fi, Hist and Disc channels, fishing, reading. Can be homebody and/or party animal. No kids (except one small puppy and one cat.) ISO SBF, short, slim, 35-48 y/o femme, honest, no drugs, no bi, no curious, no games, likes pets. For dates, possible LTR. **NLBox 188** *(3)*

30 y/o dykey bi femme, cute, loves animals, dancing, laughing, pet stores, ice cream, new things. Wants a lover not a quickie. Don't answer if you're politically correct, psycho or a U-Haul addict. **Voice 52776** *(3.*

Hello, SBF, 30's open minded and would like to meet other SBF's especially feminine) for friendship first (I really do mean friends first). I can be everything from "overly serious" to "very light hearted." **NL/Voice 52778** *(3)*

Tell me your dreams and I'll tell you mine. I dream of a GBF, 25-35, witty, independent and adventurous looking for that special woman **Voice 52790** *(3)*

LYNNELL from 25

her life. Meaning, she had planned to come out, change her name and live her life as the woman she feels she is. What happened is her wife threatened her, but because she is a lawyer, she knew her rights. She did come out and will be changing her name soon. Her divorce is still pending, but she finally took control over her life and came out, and she has visitation with her two boys.

It is sad to report that these things do happen in the Trans/Intersex community. Sometimes if you are ignorant of your rights, you may think you have no choice but to give up. I beg of you, if this is happening to you, please seek the advice of a lawyer. If your lawyer tells you your case is hopeless, get another lawyer. There is no such thing as a hopeless case. You have the right to have custody or visitation with your kids. For years gays & lesbians have been fighting for the right to adopt or have custody of their kids, and some of them have been successful. Life is not great all the time, but it's still worth living. When it seems like a door was shut in front of you be patient, another one will open soon. If you believe in God or Goddess, talk to them and tell them your problems and fears. If you do not believe in them, believe in something, even if it's the Sun. Every day the Sun rises. There are some days the sun is brighter than others, but it's still there. Find faith and hold on to it.

We each have a purpose in life. If you are not sure what your purpose is, pray on it.

Suicide is not the answer! If you kill yourself, you will just have to come back and do it all over again, from the beginning. If you think you need help then contact a Trans/Intersex support group. There are some very good support groups for Trans/Intersex youths and adults in Chicago. For help call TranGenesis (312-839-5541), Chicago Gender Society (708-863-7714), Howard Brown (773-388-1600) or Horizons Community Services (773-472-6469). Harriett Tubman Place/Pathfinders is an African-American resource for GLBT teens and young adults, (773) 626-1443.

Whatever you do don't give up, help is right around the corner.

Lynnell Stephani Long is a Trans/Intersex Activist. Her e-mail is TSReporter@aol.com or write her at Lambda Publications, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657. FAX (773) 871-7609.

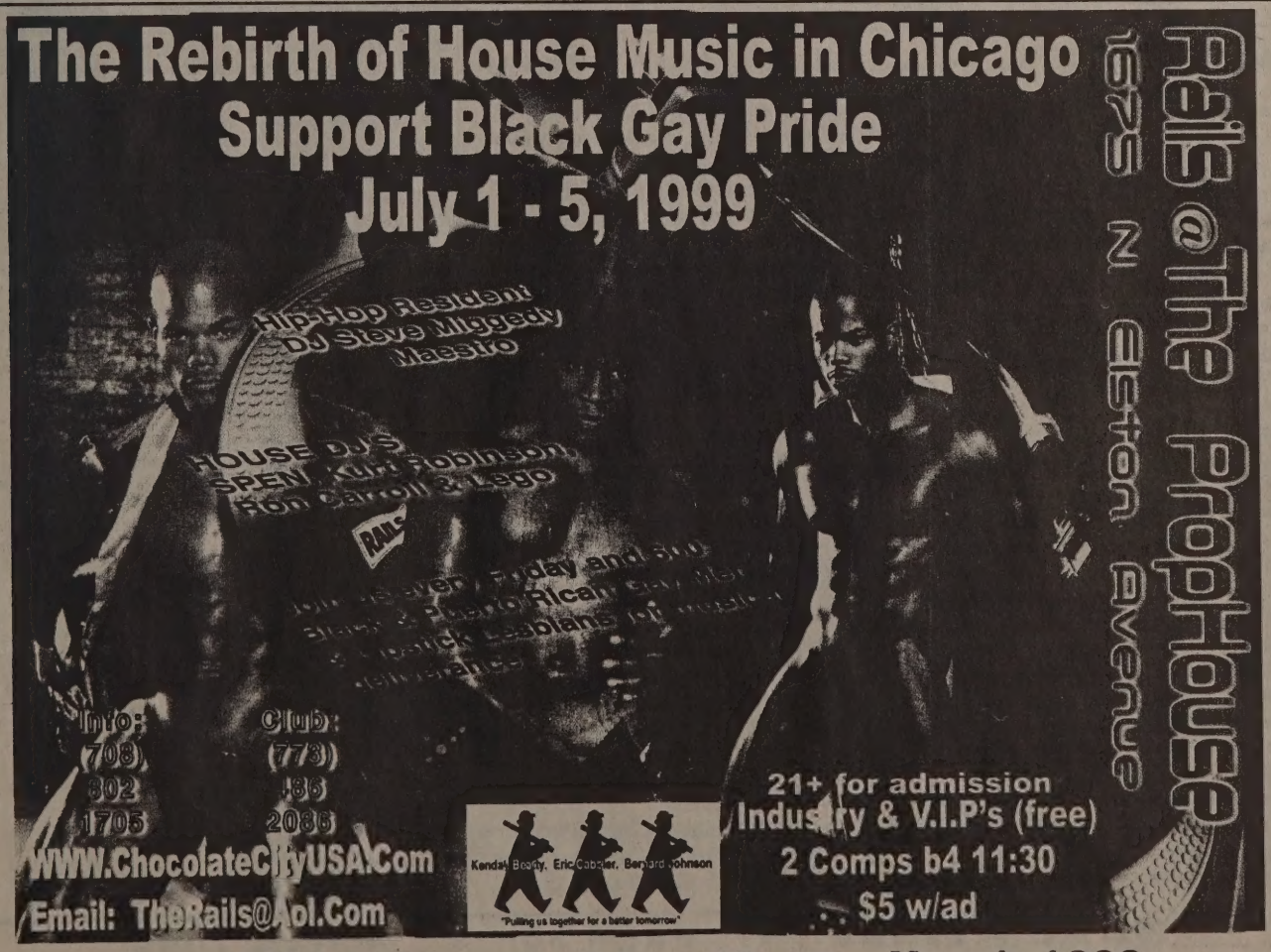
SANDERS from 24

my head. "I am the man who's been dreaming and waiting for you my entire life," he says to me. I lean back into his chest; I want to stay like that forever. My alarm goes off and I can not stay there.

This is a recurring dream that I have. It happens at least once every week.

In dreams, I find hope, I find peace, and joy and I find true love. Now I know that the person who is out there for me probably won't be six-feet tall and he won't walk up to me and take me on the dance floor. He will have one thing in common with my dream lover. It will be the feelings that I have when I am near him. I will be the man he's been dreaming and waiting for his entire life. My dreams give me the will to keep up the search. What person would want to take that away? If I didn't have my dreams, I don't think I could keep up the struggle.

In dreams I receive the energy to keep up with life.



World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

February is the month that we celebrate valentines, presidents—and, of course, Black history. In keeping with the latter item, here are some Afrocentric sites to help you become more educated and, ultimately, in touch with your brothers and sisters:

Quick—what biblical character was Harriet Tubman compared to? The Internet African American History Challenge (http://160.79.207.23/blackhistory/) lists profiles of prominent 19th-century Blacks (like Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, and the aforementioned Tubman) and includes quizzes. Although it's aimed primarily at teens, the information is essential for all.

The African American Odyssey Page (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohthl/exhibit/aointro.html) spotlights the titular collection, currently in the Library of Congress. The materials displayed focus on various eras, from the antebellum years to the Booker T. Washington era to the civil-rights period. You can link to pages citing these phases and read what the times were (and, to a degree, still are) like for Black Americans. Afrigeneas (http://www.msstate.edu/Archives/History/afrigen) delves into the field of genealogy and specifically Black ancestry. You can "share your genealogical research and resources in general and your African ancestry in particular" and even get feedback on how to search your own family tree.

Civil Rights Timeline (http://www.seattletimes.com/mlk/movement/Seatimeline.html) is just that: a visual marker that showcases everything from Rosa Parks' own sit-in to the Rodney King incident.

Chicago's DuSable Museum of African-American History (http://www.dusablemuseum.org/) spotlights the famed institution. Pages include: Museum Info, Exhibits ("Africa Speaks," "Songs of My People," and "DuSable Treasures"), Calendar of Events, The Trading Post, and Cinema Series (upcoming films feature Mahalia Jackson in concert and "The Women of Brewster Place").

▼▼▼▼▼

Contact me at gemini1@nwu.edu.

WHOOPI GETS GLAAD AWARD

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced that Oscar-winning actress Whoopi Goldberg will receive the 1999 Vanguard Award at the 10th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. The Media Awards, which will take place in three ceremonies this year, will honor Goldberg April 17 at the Century Plaza Hotel and Towers in Los Angeles.

The Vanguard Award is presented to a member of the entertainment or media community who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for lesbians and gay men. Past recipients of the award include Cher, Cristina Saralegui, Roseanne, Sid Sheinberg, Aaron Spelling and Steven Tisch.

Goldberg's film debut in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple*, portraying a woman who among other things explores her sexual orientation, garnered her an Oscar nomination. She went on to star in such films as *Soapdish, Sister Act, How Stella Got Her Groove Back and Ghost*, which won Goldberg an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1990. In 1995's *Boys on the Side*, she portrayed a lesbian who befriends two women, played by Mary Louise Parker and Drew Barrymore, on a cross-county trip. In 1997, she appeared in the Christopher Reeve's HBO drama *In the Gloaming*, the story of a young gay HIV-positive man's return home. Goldberg also portrays a lesbian police officer in the film *Deep End of the Ocean*, which stars Michelle Pfeiffer and opens March 12. On March 21, 1999 Goldberg will host the Academy Awards on ABC.

MORTEN JOINS GLAAD'S BOARD

GLAAD has appointed Mary F. Morten to its Board of Directors. Morten is the second Chicago-area board member for the national lesbian and gay media advocacy group, joining David E. Springer, who has served on the board for nine months.

"We are enormously fortunate to have Mary on board," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "Her history with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Chicago, her media experience, and her keen understanding of our community's issues will be an invaluable team."

GLAAD is hosting a Chicago reception Feb. 26 at Sidetrack, and media training Feb. 27. Call (800) 429-6334 ext. 13.

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs 312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W,D,V 312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D,
1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-395-8660
K.C. Productions at Cotton Club, Sundays 312-341-9787
1710 S. Michigan, open til 4 a.m., shows
THE RAILS AT PROP HOUSE, 1675 N. Elston, FRIDAYS
MW,D, TheRails@aol.com 708-802-1705
THE VIX: A Jazz Supperclub, 2814 N. Halsted
MW,D,R,GS 773-529-3999

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R 773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark 773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun. 312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4 773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D 773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 312-409-0276
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe 773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V 773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D 773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat) 847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649 312-409-7609
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573 773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans Performers
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread 312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
outlines@suba.com **http://www.suba.com/~outlines/**
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com
P.O. Box 496024. Chicago 60649
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network)
Programming 773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent ... 773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181 312-409-4917
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band 773-434-6099
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 .. 773-778-3030
Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent .. 773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen 708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men 773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery 773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies 312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum 202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians
of African Descent, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Phrasority *parties for all lesbians and gays* 312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital 773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649 773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support .. 773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois 847-625-7263
TransGenesis trans support 312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .. 773-878-7839

HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES presents...

THE REAL CHAT ROOM

A SATURDAY MORNING DISCUSSION SERIES

Real people. *Real* chat. *Real* room.

Be a part of an exciting new program offered by Horizons – ***The Real Chat Room Discussion Series.*** Eight lively conversations on hot topics of interest to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) community. Come to one or as many as you like. It's a chance to get on your soapbox, to meet new friends, and revive the art of *live* chat. And it's all for the price of a movie!

105. "Ellen" Vs. "Will & Grace": What Does Being Out on TV Really Mean?
Women & Men. Saturday, February 27.
Was *Ellen* too gay for American audiences? Does *Will & Grace* keep the heterosexual fantasy alive? Who decides what we watch? Is it ratings or boycotts? Do TV's gay images have consequences for our community? How do they shape the culture's opinions about what it means to be gay in America?

106. Are Plastic Pecs the Answer? Sexuality for Gay Men: Is There Too Much Focus on the Physical? *Men only. Saturday, March 6.*
Sex is readily available to Gay men. Yet men who desire intimacy beyond the physical act seem to have difficulty finding it. Does the community's focus on youth and beauty impact our ability to find and mantain relationships with men who are less than perfect?

107. Breaking the U-Haul Cycle: Can Women Just Date? *Women only. Saturday, March 13.*
Are you stuck in a pattern of meeting someone, rushing into a relationship, then realizing 6 months later that you shouldn't be together? Why do we feel we must commit for life on the second date? What are the factors behind this behavior and how do we break the cycle?

108. What's It All About? Spirituality: What Does It Mean for Us? *Women & Men. Saturday, March 20.*
What gives our lives meaning? How do we nourish our spirits? Do you feel shut out by mainstream religion, or is religion even an issue? Does ritual play a role in our lives? Have our life experiences damaged our spirits, or have they led us to a capacity for unique spiritual insights?

The Real Chat Room Discussion Series
Where: Horizons, 961 West Montana, Chicago 60614 **Time:** 10 am to 12 pm **Fee:** $8 per group
Each group is limited to 15 people, so sign up early!

The Real Chat Room Discussion Series Registration

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone: (Home) _____ /_____ (Work)_____ /_____

Please register me for the following **Real Chat Room Discussion Groups**:

101____ 102____ 103____ 104____ 105____ 106____ 107____ 108____

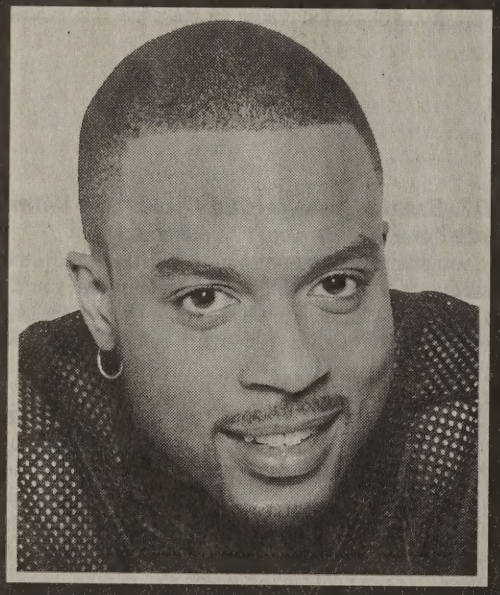
Enclosed is my check made out to Horizons for $_____ **Mail to:** Horizons, 961 West Montana, Chicago 60614, Attn: ESS

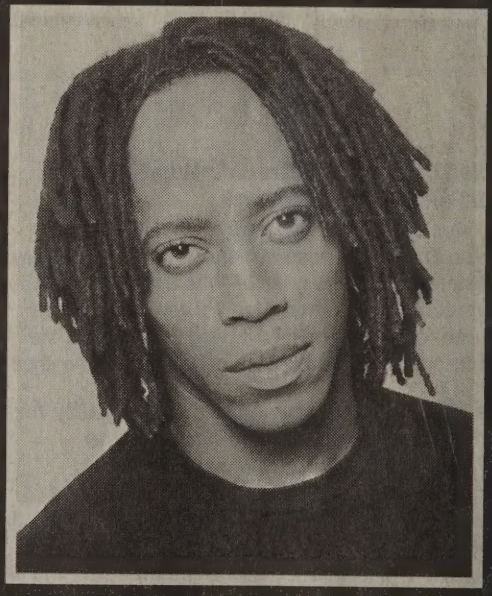
Anonymous HIV Testing Now Available!

BROTHERS C.A.N.

Community Awareness Network

An HIV Prevention Program for African-American Gay & Bisexual Men





GAMBA

A men's discussion group for gay and bisexual men.
Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

- **Wednesday, March 10:** Sex and The Positive Man
- **Wednesday, March 24:** What is our responsibility as single gender loving men to youth?

HARAMBEE WELLNESS CENTER
of Howard Brown Health Center

1515 E. 52nd Place in
Chicago's Hyde Park Neighborhood
For information **call 773.752.7867**